

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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China - Peoples Republic of

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China to ban the use of benzoyl peroxide in flour on May 1

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On March 1, the Ministry of Health published a statement officially revoking, as of May 1, 2011, benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide as approved food additives and specifically banning the use of benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide in flour processing. Flour and flour products produced before this date using benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide may still be sold through their expiry dates.

Executive Summary:

On March 1, the Ministry of Health published on its web site a joint statement officially revoking, as of May 1, 2011, the approval of benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide as food additives, and prohibiting the use of these additives in flour processing. Flour and flour products produced before this date using benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide may be sold through their expiry dates.

On October 24, 2007, China notified to the WTO a proposed rule banning the use of benzoyl peroxide in wheat flour as G/SPS/N/CHN/103. On December 15, 2010, the Ministry of Health published an announcement soliciting domestic comments on a proposed rule to ban benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide in flour processing beginning December 31, 2011. This report is an informal translation of the ban.

General Information:

BEGIN TRANSLATION

Joint Statement by Seven Government Agencies including the Ministry of Health on Revocation of Benzoyl Peroxide and Calcium Peroxide as Approved Food Additives (No. 4 of 2011)

February 11, 2011

In accordance with the Food Safety Law that stipulates that food additives should be allowed for use only if they are technically necessary and that they are proven safe and reliable through a risk assessment, food additives benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide are of no technical necessity after a review and it is therefore decided that they be revoked and announced as follows:

1. As of May 1, 2011, benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide are prohibited during flour processing and food additive enterprises should not produce and sell benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide as food additives. The content in food standards that allows the use of benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide in flour (wheat flour) shall also be abolished. Flour and flour products that are produced before this date in compliance with relevant standards and use benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide can still be sold until their expiration dates.
2. Flour mills and food additive enterprises shall conduct their business and perform self-examination and self-correction based on the requirement of this announcement. Relevant industry groups should enhance the management and self-discipline within the industry and guide the industry to regulate production and operation activities on flour and food.
3. Food safety supervision departments at all levels should accelerate their supervision and law-enforcement, enhance food safety inspections and investigate and punish any illegal activities involving production, sale and use of benzoyl peroxide and calcium peroxide as food additives.

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration on Industry and Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine, The State Grain Administration, and the State Food and Drug Administration

END TRANSLATION