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Government Grants Six Month Transition Period for New Pet Food Labels

Report Categories:

Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

The Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) Public Notice [2018] No. 20, dated April 27, 2018, announced six regulatory documents concerning pet foods, including the Administrative Measures for Pet Food and the Provisions for Labeling of Pet Food. Pursuant to the Provisions for Labeling of Pet Food, labels of domestic and imported pet food must comply with the provisions from September 1, 2019. On September 2, 2019, MARA issued Public Notice [2019] No. 210, granting an additional six months transition period for domestic and foreign pet food producers to transition to the new labels that comply with relevant provisions. This report provides an unofficial translation of the No. 210 Public Notice.

BEGIN TRANSLATION

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Public Notice [2019] No.210

Pursuant to the MARA Public Notice [2018] No. 20, labels of domestic and imported pet food must comply with the “Provisions of Pet Food Labels”¹ from September 1, 2019. However, due to reports by many pet food producers recently, they still have large inventory of the old labels, and would suffer huge economic losses to adopt the new labels before the set deadline. After verifying the situation, MARA decided to make the following announcement on relevant issues to avoid resources waste and reduce industry’s burdens:

1. Granting an additional six months transition period for pet food labels. Domestically produced pet food products and imported pet food products after March 1, 2020 must use labels that comply with the “Provisions of Pet Food Labels”.
2. Before March 1, 2020, if pet food producers continue using the old labels, they should stick or attach a supplementary label. The supplementary label should mark the following content: common names of the product that comply with the “Provisions of Pet Food Labels”, the guaranteed values of product ingredient analyses that are not provided in the old labels; and the statement that “This product complies with provisions of pet food sanitary requirements.” The supplementary label should be stuck or placed at an obvious spot on the old label. The font size of the product’s common name should not be smaller than that of the common name and product name in the old labels.
3. Starting from March 1, 2020, the feed regulatory authorities at all levels will, following requirements in the “Provisions of Pet Food Labels,” conduct oversight and law enforcement work on pet food labels to promote the healthy development of the industry.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

September 2, 2019

END OF TRANSLATION

¹ Annex 3 of the Public Notice No. 20, Six Regulatory Documents concerning Pet Food (including the Administrative Measures for Pet Food, Licensing Conditions for Pet Food Producing Enterprises, Provisions for Labeling of Pet Food, Sanitary Provisions for Pet Food, Requirements on Application Materials for Production Licensing of Pet Compound Food, and the Requirements on Application Materials for Production Licensing for Pet Food with Premixed Additives.)