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POLICY

Voluntary Public

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Vietnam

Post: Hanoi

Vietnam Amends the List of Additives Allowed for Use in Food

Report Categories:

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and
Standards - Narrative

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Report Highlights:

On May 11, 2015, the Ministry of Health (MOH) issued Circular 8/2015/TT-BYT to amend and supplement the food additive managing provisions regulated in MOH's Circular 27/2012/TT-BYT.

Accordingly, seven (7) new food additives have been added to the List of food additives allowed for use in Vietnam. Circular 8/2015/TT-BYT entered into force on July 1, 2015.

Summary:

The Circular 8/2015/TT-BYT added seven food additives to the List of Food Additives allowed for use in Vietnam raising the total to 407 food additives allowed for use in food. The Appendix of Circular 8/2015/TT-BYT provides the most updated maximum limit for food additives allowed for use in Vietnam.

The draft Circular 8/2015/TT-BYT was notified to the World Trade Organization's SPS Committee as SPS/VNM/54 on May 9, 2014. The U.S. Government (USG) and many U.S. food and agricultural industries provided comments on the Draft. USG and U.S. private sector commenters did not receive a written reply from the Vietnam Food Administration (VFA), MOH. Of specific concern is the exclusion of many commonly used additives in winemaking from the approved list. The U.S. wine industry and other wine industries also provided comments on VFA's draft Circular before it was published, but did not receive a reply or guidance on whether or not U.S. made wine would remain permitted for import into Vietnam. VFA has repeatedly stated that Vietnam authorities will defer to the producing country's standards for those additives which CODEX has not adopted a standard, but has not codified this in Vietnam regulations.

Circular 8/2015 amends and supplements Circular 27/2012/TT-BYT (see GAIN VM3007) which promulgated a list of 400 food additives, coded by the International Numbering System (INS) (Appendix 1), that are allowed for use in food, and proscribes the maximum limit for those additives in food products (Appendix 2). Appendix 2 of Circular 27/2012 can be found at : <http://vfa.gov.vn/doc/download/thong-tu-huong-dan-quan-ly-phu-gia-thuc-pham-167.vfa>.

This report provides an un-official translation of Circular 8/2015/TT-BYT and excludes the Appendix (listing the 407 additives and their approved limits) which is available at the Vietnam Food Administration's website: <http://vfa.gov.vn/van-ban-phap-luat/thong-tu-sua-doi-bo-sung-mot-so-quy-dinh-cua-thong-tu-272012tt-byt-ngay-30-thang-11-nam-2012-cua-bo-truong-bo-y-te-huong-dan-viec-quan-ly-phu-gia-thuc-pham-218.vfa>

Un-official translation of Circular 8/2015/TT-BYT, dated May 11, 2015

Ministry of Health

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Independence - Freedom - Happiness

No: 08/2015/TT-BYT

Hà Nội May 11, 2015

CIRCULAR

Amendment and supplement of some provisions of the Health Minister's Circular 27/2012/TT-BYT dated November 11, 2012 regarding the guidance on food additives management

Pursuant to the Food Safety Law dated June 17, 2010

Pursuant to the Government Decree 38/2012/ND-CP dated April 25, 2012 on Detailed Implementation of Some Articles of the Food Safety Law

Pursuant to the Government Decree 63/2012/ND-CP dated August 31, 2012 regarding regulation on functions, responsibilities, authorities and organization of the Ministry of Health.

Per proposal of the Director General of Vietnam Food Administration

Minister of Ministry of Health issues Circular amending some articles of the Ministry of Health's Circular 27/2012/TT-BYT dated November 30, 2012 regarding the Guidance of Management of Food Additives

Article 1. To amend and supplement some articles of the Circular 27/2012/TT-BYT dated November 30, 2012 regarding the Guidance on the Management of Food Additives (here referred as Circular 27/2012/TT-BYT) as below:

1. To add the following food additives to the List of food additives allowed for use in food presented in Appendix-1 of Circular 27/2012/TT-BYT as below:

INS	Name of Food Additive		Function
	<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>English</i>	
153	Carbon thực vật	Vegetable carbon	Coloring
163(v)	Màu bắp cải đỏ	Red cabbage colour	Coloring
363	Acid succinic	Succinic acid	Acidity regulator
515 (ii)	Kali hydro sulfat	Potassium hydrogen sulfate	Acidity regulator
639	DL-Alanin	Alanin, DL-	Flavor enhancing agent
640	Glycin	Glycine	Flavor enhancing agent
958	Glycyrhizin	Glycyrrhizin	Flavor enhancing agent, sweetener

2. To amend and supplement the maximum levels of food additives allowed in food specified in Appendix 2 promulgated by Circular 27/2012/TT-BYT in accordance with the Appendix amending and supplementing the maximum levels of food additives allowed in food issued with this Circular.
3. To amend and supplement Article 7 regarding the transitional provision as follows: Food additives and food product containing food additives that are already granted the Receipt of Conformity Declaration, or the Certification on conformity to food safety regulation before the effective date of this Circular, can be used until the expiry date stated in the Receipt or the Certification.

Article 2. Implementing Provision

1. This Circular is effective from July 1, 2015.
2. The Vietnam Food Administration is responsible to take the lead, and coordinate with the relevant competent agencies to provide guidelines and to organize the implementation of this Circular. During the implementation, if there are any difficulties, obstacles or requests; please contact the Vietnam Food Administration (Ministry of Health) for consideration and solution.

Recipient:

- Office of the Government
- Related ministries, governmental agencies
- Ministry of Justice
- Minister Nguyen Thi Kim Tien (for reporting)
- Provincial/City people committee
- Province/City Department of Health
- Province/City Department of Food safety
- Imported food inspecting agencies
- Directorate for Standards, Methodology and Quality
- MOH's VFA, Admin., Legal Depart. for filling

**For Minister
Vice Minister**

(signed)

Nguyễn Thanh Long