



MINISTRY OF TRADE
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

31 MAY 2006

The Honorable Karan Bhatia
Deputy U.S. Trade Representative
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Honorable,

I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between the Government of Viet Nam and the Government of the United States of America in connection with our bilateral market access agreement on Viet Nam's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Viet Nam is in the process of implementing technical regulations on shelf life for food raw materials and food additives. Viet Nam shall enter into consultations with and, give all due consideration to comments from, the United States prior to the implementation of the technical regulations on shelf life for food raw materials and food additives. The implementing regulation shall be implemented upon Viet Nam's accession to the WTO. For all other food products, Viet Nam will accept voluntary manufacturer-determined best-if-used-by dates.

I have the honor to request that you confirm that your government shares this understanding and have the further honor to propose that this letter and your letter of confirmation in reply shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments to enter into force on this date.

Sincerely,

Truong Dinh Tuyen
Minister of Trade
The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

May 31, 2006

H.E. Truong Dinh Tuyen
Minister of Trade
The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Dear Minister Truong:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date which reads as follows:

I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between the Government of Viet Nam and the Government of the United States of America in connection with our bilateral market access agreement on Viet Nam's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Viet Nam is in the process of implementing technical regulations on shelf life for food raw materials and food additives. Viet Nam shall enter into consultations with and, give all due consideration to comments from, the United States prior to the implementation of the technical regulations on shelf life for food raw materials and food additives. The implementing regulation shall be implemented upon Viet Nam's accession to the WTO. For all other food products, Viet Nam will accept voluntary manufacturer-determined best-if-used-by dates upon accession.

I have the honor to request that you confirm that your government shares this understanding and have the further honor to propose that this letter and your letter of confirmation in reply shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments on this date.

I have the honor to confirm that my government shares this understanding and that your letter and this reply shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments to enter into force on this date.

Sincerely,



Karan Bhatia