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MRL Arsenic in Foods - DRAFT FOR COMMENTS

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Approved by:

Larry M. Senger

U.S. Embassy, Beijing

Prepared by:

Wu Bugang, Adam Branson

Report Highlights:

This is an UNOFFICIAL translation of the People's Republic of China DRAFT Standard for Arsenic in Foods and should be used as a guide only. Exporters should carefully discuss regulations and their application with Chinese importers to ensure that their interpretation is accurate.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Beijing [CH1], CH

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Beijing, People's Republic of China for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products and paid for by the US Codex Office. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Introduction

The People's Republic of China Ministry of Health (MOH) published DRAFT versions of several National Standards in August 2002 on the MOH website (www.moh.gov.cn). This document is an UNOFFICIAL translation of a National Standard that appeared on that website.

The MOH has not published a final version to this DRAFT therefore, the previous standard is still valid. National Standards that are abbreviated 'GB' and issued by MOH are compulsory standards that both China's domestic goods and goods imported into China must satisfy. MOH standards abbreviated 'GB/T' are voluntary.

At this time, U.S. industry and government officials are invited to offer comments on the DRAFTED National Standard. Questions and comments can be submitted to the USDA FAS International Trade Policy Office of Food Safety and Technical Services by fax (202-690-0677) or by email (ofsts@fas.usda.gov). Questions can also be provided to the U.S. Embassy Office of Agricultural Affairs by fax (86-10-6532-2962) or by email (AgBeijing@fas.usda.gov).

Once finalized, the Standard will replace GB4810-94 Maximum Levels of Arsenic in Foods.

Items noted in the DRAFT for Maximum Levels of Arsenic in Foods

Parts of the Standard for "total arsenic" are not equivalent to the Standard of the General Code for Pollutants and Toxic Elements in Foods adopted by the CAC.

Comparing this Standard with GB 4810-94, the main modifications are as follows:

- The original standards for inorganic arsenic in shellfish (based on inorganic arsenic fresh weight) and crustaceans (based on fresh weight) have been combined.
- The grain in the original standard was classified into three categories: rice, wheat flour, and other grains.
- Twelve items for maximum levels of inorganic arsenic are proposed.
- Some food kinds from the original standard for total arsenic have been deleted.
- This Standard adopted the CAC standard for some equivalents.
- This Standard proposed maximum arsenic levels of five food items: sugar, edible oil and fat, fruit juice, fruit syrup, and cocoa products

Standard of Maximum Levels of Arsenic in Foods

1. Scope

This standard specifies the criteria for the maximum levels of arsenic in foods. This standard applies to grain, vegetables, fruits, meat, eggs, milk, aquatic products, fruit juice and fruit syrup, cocoa products, wine, sugar, etc.

2. Documents Cited by this Standard

The clauses in the following documents that were cited by this Standard became clauses of this Standard. For cited documents with a date, all their subsequent modifications or revisions do not apply to this Standard. However, parties having reached an agreement based on cited standards with a date are encouraged to study whether the latest versions of the cited documents with a date are applicable. For cited documents without a date, the latest versions apply to this Standard.

GB/T 5009.11 The Determination Methods for Total Arsenic and Inorganic Arsenic in Foods.

3. Technical Requirements

The standards for the Maximum levels of Arsenic in Foods are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Standard of the Maximum Levels of Arsenic in Foods

Items	Levels (Mls), mg/kg	
	Total Arsenic	Inorganic Arsenic
Grain		
-Rice		0.15
-Flour		0.1
-Other Grains		0.2
Vegetables		0.05
Fruits		0.05
Poultry and meat		0.05
Eggs		0.05
Milk powder		0.25
Fresh milk		0.05
Beans		0.1
Wines		0.05
Fish		0.1
Algae (based on dry weight)		1.5
Shellfish and Crustacean (based on fresh weight)		0.5
Shellfish and Crustacean (based on dry weight)		1.0
Other aquatic products		0.5
Edible oil and fat	0.1	
Fruit juice and fruit syrup	0.2	
Cacao fat and chocolate	0.5	
Other cacao products	1.0	
Sugar	1.0	

4. Inspection method

Arsenic in Food is determined according to the method described in GB/T5009.11.