



**CHEESE IMPORTERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Bulletin 17-13 April 19, 2017

CIAA Bulletin

**An Exclusive CIAA Member
Update**

FDA Made the Following Announcement Today

FDA Recognizes Australia as Having a Comparable Food Safety System to the U.S.

April 19, 2017

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has signed an arrangement with the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources recognizing each other's food safety systems as comparable to each other. This is the third time that the FDA has recognized a [foreign food safety system](#) as comparable, the first being New Zealand in 2012 and Canada in 2016. By recognizing each other's systems, the FDA and Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources have confidence that they can leverage each other's science-based regulatory systems to help ensure food safety. For example, each partner intends to consider the oversight of the other when prioritizing inspection activities, but the benefits go beyond inspection and admissibility. Systems recognition establishes a framework for regulatory cooperation in a variety of areas that range from scientific collaboration to outbreak response.

Systems recognition involves reviewing a foreign country's domestic food safety regulatory system to determine if it has a food safety system that provides a similar system of food safety protection to that provided by the FDA. Domestic systems provide the baseline level of public health protection that helps assure the safety of exported foods from that country. Systems recognition also helps the FDA focus more on potential risks when planning the scope and frequency of its inspection activities, including foreign facility inspections, import field exams, and import sampling.

The FDA, working with Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, conducted a systems recognition review and assessment using the [International Comparability Assessment Tool](#). The process includes a comprehensive review of key elements of the country's national food safety control system such as its relevant laws and regulations, inspection programs, response to food-related illness and outbreaks, compliance and enforcement and laboratory support.

Systems recognition is voluntary and not required in order for a country to export foods to the U.S. The FDA continues to have inspection authority over food imported from any country with which it has an arrangement and can exercise this authority as needed. Imports from Australia must continue to comply with U.S. statutory and regulatory requirements to ensure safety and proper labeling, including the new standards adopted under the [FDA Food Safety Modernization Act](#).

For more information see:

- [International Cooperation](#)
- [International Comparability Assessment Tool \(ICAT\) \(PDF: 394KB\)](#)
- [Report of the Systems Recognition Review of Australia by the U.S. FDA \(PDF: 605KB\)](#)
- [FDA Issues Information for Foreign Governments: Frequently Asked Questions Systems Recognition](#)

Should you have any questions, please contact Roger Szemraj at rszemraj@theciaa.org or (202) 789-1212.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 22, 2017

Raw Milk Cheese Appreciation Day

May 4, 2017

Member Meeting

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Saddle Brook Marriott, Saddle Brook, NJ

May 5, 2017

CIAA Dinner Dance

Macaluso, Hawthorne, NJ

Dinner Dance [Registration](#)

July 1, 2017

Last day for an exporting country that is not designating importers for calendar year 2017 to notify FAS.

August 31, 2017

Last day to Enter dairy products into U.S. Customs territory that may be used to qualify and establish eligibility for a calendar year 2017 license.

* If a deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the deadline will be the next business day (Section 6.36(a) of the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Regulation). This does not apply to dates of entry for eligibility.

Cheese Importers Association of America

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