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CIAA Bulletin

An Exclusive CIAA Member Update

FDA Is Now Accepting VQIP Applications

On January 1, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) opened the [Voluntary Qualified Importer Program](#) (VQIP) application portal for FY 2021 (which runs October 1, 2020 to September 20, 2021). The Voluntary Qualified Importer Program (VQIP) is a voluntary, user fee-based program that provides participating importers expedited review and import entry for human and animal foods. The [portal](#) will remain open until May 31, 2020.

There are a wide variety of benefits for an importer that participates in VQIP, including:

- Expedited entry into the U.S. for all human and animal foods included in the approved VQIP application;
- Limited examination or sampling of VQIP food entries to (1) "for cause" situations, (2) obtain statistically necessary risk-based microbiological samples, and (3) audit to verify an importer's compliance with VQIP;
- Examination of the entry and sample collection at the VQIP food's destination or other location preferred by the VQIP importer;
- Prioritized testing of VQIP samples at FDA laboratories; and
- Access to a VQIP Importers Help Desk that will respond to questions and resolve issues raised by VQIP importers.

We will continue to monitor developments related to VQIP. Should you have any questions regarding this alert, contact the Husch Blackwell LLP team at CIAAGeneralCounsel@huschblackwell.com.

Dates to Remember

March 1, 2020 (approximately)

FAS issues final notice of calendar year 2020 licenses to licensees

March 15, 2020

The license fee for each license issued is due and payable in full no later than March 15 of the year for which the license is issued. Licenses issued after March 15 of any quota year are payable in full no later than 10 days from the date of issuance. Fee payments are payable to the Treasurer of the United

States and shall be made solely utilizing the electronic software designated for the purpose by the Licensing Authority.

July 2, 2020

Last day for an exporting country that is not designating importers for calendar year 2020 to notify FAS

August 31, 2020

Last day to enter dairy products into U.S. Customs territory that may be used to qualify and establish eligibility for a calendar year 2021 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.

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