



HUSCHBLACKWELL

Washington Update

Cheese Importers Association of America

May 6, 2022 | Member Meeting



Trade Update

- USTR focused primarily on:
 - Ensuring obligations under FTAs already in effect are met and enforcing rights
 - Looking for wins (even if small) for US industry in trade
- USTR still not focused on negotiating new trade deals, but some discussions with the UK
- Withdrawal of nomination for Elaine Trevino as Chief Agriculture Negotiator at USTR
- Generalized System of Preferences / Miscellaneous Tariff Bill
 - While the renewal of GSP, MTB, and Section 301 Exclusions have received broad bipartisan support, procedural hurdles relating to revenue legislation and differing bill text will need to be resolved in conference before a vote can be expected
 - Bills have been passed by both the House and Senate which would provide retroactive treatment for imports



Dairy Import Licensing Program – 6.25(b)

- CIIA working to have this issued addressed in 2023 Farm Bill
- CIIA finishing a waiver request to submit to FAS to request an additional suspension of the provision in light of impacts on license holders due to
 - Section 301 LCA tariffs
 - COVID-19 public health emergency



FDA Update

- Commissioner Robert Califf focused on rebuilding trust in FDA following recent recalls in infant formula and questions regarding FDA's oversight of the food system
- Cheese Sampling Assignment
 - The sampling of raw milk cheeses, brined cheeses, soft mold-ripened cheeses, blue cheeses, and bacterial surface-ripened cheeses is completed
 - Members reported in some instances significant delays in processing times, but hearing that generally that most sample results on imported cheeses were negative
 - Waiting on a response from FDA regarding our FOIA request for the report of samples taken and results the assignment
- FDA hopes to issue some additional FSVP related guidance documents in 2022 (<https://www.fda.gov/food/guidance-documents-regulatory-information-topic-food-and-dietary-supplements/foods-program-guidance-under-development>)

If you have questions, contact the Husch Blackwell team at:

CIAAGeneralCounsel@huschblackwell.com



Seth Mailhot

Partner

office: 202.378.2306

email: seth.mailhot@huschblackwell.com



Robert Stang

Partner

office: 202.378.2334

email: robert.stang@huschblackwell.com



Kyle Gilster

Managing Partner

office: 202.378.2303

email: kyle.gilster@huschblackwell.com



Emily Lyons

Senior Associate

office: 202.378.2315

email: emily.lyons@huschblackwell.com

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