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Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Allergen Labeling - Temporary Exemptions

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Report Highlights:

The European Commission has established a list of allergen derivatives that are temporarily excluded – until November 25, 2007 - from mandatory declaration on food labels.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E3]

Allergen Labeling – Temporary Exemptions

In November 2003, the EU published Directive 2003/89/EC making the indication of allergenic substances on food labels mandatory. Directive 2003/89/EC is an amendment to the EU's general food labeling directive 2000/13/EC and establishes a list of allergenic substances. The directive also provides that the Commission may temporarily exempt certain ingredients from mandatory labeling while food manufacturers conduct scientific studies to establish that those ingredients do not trigger allergic reactions.

The applications that the Commission received from the manufacturing industry regarding certain derivatives of allergenic ingredients were referred to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for a scientific opinion. Based on EFSA's risk assessments, the Commission has now established a list of allergen derivatives that are temporarily excluded – until November 25, 2007 - from mandatory declaration on food labels. The list is an Annex to Commission Directive 2005/26/EC and includes the following food ingredients and substances:

Ingredients	Products thereof provisionally excluded
Cereals containing gluten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wheat based glucose syrups including dextrose - Wheat based maltodextrins - Glucose syrups based on barley - Cereals used in distillates for spirits
Eggs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lysozym (produced from egg) used in wine - Albumin (produced from egg) used as fining agent in wine and cider
Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish gelatin used as carrier for vitamins and flavors - Fish gelatin or Isinglass used as fining agent in beer, cider and wine
Soybean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fully refined soybean oil and fat - Natural mixed tocopherols (E306), natural D-alpha tocopherol, natural D-alpha tocopherol acetate, natural D-alpha tocopherol succinate from soybean sources - Vegetable oils derived phytosterols and phytosterol esters from soybean sources - Plant stanol ester produced from vegetable oil sterols from soybean sources
Milk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whey used in distillates for spirits - Lactitol - Milk (casein) products used in fining agents in cider and wines
Nuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nuts used in distillates for spirits - Nuts (almonds, walnuts) used (as flavor) in spirits
Celery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Celery leaf and seed oil - Celery seed oleoresin
Mustard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mustard oil - Mustard seed oil - Mustard seed oleoresin

Commission Directive 2005/26/EC can be downloaded from the Internet at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_075/l_07520050322en00330034.pdf.

Visit our website: our website www.useu.be/agri/usda.html provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. More information on the EU's food labeling requirements can be found at www.useu.be/agri/label.html.

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Related reports from USEU Brussels:

Report Number	Title	Date Released
E34093	Allergen Labeling on Wine	November 2004
E23186	New Allergen Labeling	September 2003
E34054	Food & Agricultural Import Regulations & Standards	September 2004

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