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Japan

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Withdrawal of the designation of Sodium Starch Phosphate

2008

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Report Highlights:

On October 16, 2008, the Japanese Government announced the planned withdrawal of a designated food additive, Sodium Starch Phosphate. The comment period will close on October 30, 2008.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

Summary

Sodium Starch Phosphate was designated on July 15, 1964 as an authorized food additive. This substance is chemically quite similar to Monostarch Phosphate, one of the 11 modified starches, which were designated on October 1, 2008. Sodium Starch Phosphate and Monostarch Phosphate are used for the same use, generally as thickeners for processed foods. They cannot be distinguished from each other by the existing specifications since the specifications are in part the same. This is likely to give rise to regulatory confusion.

The Ministry conducted surveys both through the Japanese food additive industry (three times between 1998 and 2004) and through the prefectural governments of the production and distribution of Sodium Starch Phosphate in the Japanese market. Survey results have shown that this substance is no longer in use in Japan.

For the reasons mentioned above, the Ministry has decided to withdraw the designation of Sodium Starch Phosphate as an authorized additive.

The comments can be either Japanese or English.

If you have comments, please send them directly to the Japanese Government at:

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