

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Canada Proposes Streamlined Regulations for Food Additives and Compositional Standards

Country: Canada

Post: Ottawa

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have opened consultations on a comprehensive regulatory package. It is meant to modernize the development and update of regulations for food compositional standards, food additives, as well as microbiological criteria and official methods of analysis used to determine food adulteration. Comments are accepted until February 2, 2024.

On November 4, 2023, the federal government [opened consultations](#) on a regulatory package proposing changes to Canada’s [Food and Drug Regulations](#) (FDR) to modernize the regulatory framework for establishing and making changes to compositional standards and food additives, as well as a new regulatory framework for determining food adulteration. Stakeholders are strongly encouraged to review all proposed measures and submit comments, by **February 2, 2024**, either directly on-line, using links provided on the consultation [webpage](#), or by contacting Health Canada at the following coordinates:

Bruno Rodrigue, Executive Director
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Policy, Planning and International Affairs Directorate
Health Products and Food Branch, Health Canada
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According to the consultation document, “There are no new anticipated costs for industry, as these proposed amendments are assumed not to introduce new regulatory requirements. Current regulatory requirements and their specifics (e.g. levels, foods, methods of analysis, compositional standards) would be moved into documents incorporated by reference, where relevant.”

For **food compositional standards**, the proposed amendments would repeal food compositional standards from the FDR and incorporate them by reference into the FDR through a new document entitled the *Food Compositional Standards Document*. Additionally, the proposed amendments would separate out health and safety provisions from the standards. The proposed measures would also trigger certain amendments to the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) (SFCR) and revisions to three existing documents incorporated by reference: *Canadian Standards of Identity* (under the SFCR), *Common Names for Ingredients and Components* (under the FDR), and *Nutrition Labelling - Table of Permitted Nutrient Content Statements and Claims* (under the FDR).

Current **official methods linked to either health and safety requirements or compositional requirements** would be incorporated by reference into the FDR. A new *Table of Chemical, Physical and Nutritional Characteristics of Food* would consolidate such rules and reference a new method for measuring the protein quality of foods. Official methods uniquely linked to a compositional requirement for a standardized food would move to the *Food Compositional Standards Document*. Several revisions to the *Nutrition Labelling - Table of Permitted Nutrient Content Statements and Claims* (under the FDR) would be required to align it with the proposed amendments to the FDR related to official methods.

With respect to **microbiological criteria and their associated microbiological methods of analysis**, the proposed regulations amend the FDR to introduce a new regulatory framework under a new Division 30 of Part B that would include a new declaration of adulteration and exemption model. The microbiological criteria would be repealed from the FDR and included in a new *Table of Microbiological Criteria for Food* that would be incorporated by reference into the FDR. In place of the current microbiological official methods of analysis, a new provision would require the use of a microbiological reference method or an equivalent method to determine whether a food meets its

microbiological criteria. Accordingly, two new documents, entitled *Table of Microbiological Reference Methods for Food* and *Canadian Requirements for Determining the Equivalence of Food Microbiological Methods of Analysis*, would also be incorporated by reference into the FDR.

Finally, the proposed amendments related to **food additives** consist of consolidating most food additive rules in Division 16 of Part B of the FDR, and setting these rules out within a declaration of adulteration and exemption model. Additionally, the Lists of Permitted Food Additives would be incorporated by reference directly into the FDR, and duplications throughout Part B, including those in the food compositional standards would be removed. Finally, rules with respect to food additives currently set out in the standards would be reflected in the 15 *Lists of Permitted Food Additives*, and a new proposed document entitled *Table of Food Additive Specifications* would be incorporated by reference into the FDR.

Attachments:

No Attachments.