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Brazil

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

New Food and Drug Inspection Agency 1999

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Report Highlights:

The Brazilian Government implemented a new agency for food and drug inspection which resembles the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The new agency, called National Agency of Sanitary Surveillance (ANVS) is under the Ministry of Health.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brasilia [BR1], BR

The Brazilian Government published on April 19, 1999 in Brazil's Federal Register Decree Number 3,029 which approves the Regulating the new National Agency for Sanitary Surveillance (ANVS), which was created by Law 9,782 on January 27, 1999. On April 27, 1999 the Brazilian Government also published the Internal Rules of the new agency under Resolution Number 1.

The new agency resembles the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and is the scientific regulatory agency responsible for the safety of all foods, (except those under the Ministry of Agriculture, such as meat, poultry, dairy, fisheries, alcoholic beverages, feed and veterinary products) cosmetics, drugs, medical devices, tobacco, etc. ANVS is under the structure of the Ministry of Health. It is composed of five Departments, of which two are related to food production, exports and imports. The two food related departments are:

Department of Food and Toxicology and

Department of Ports, Airports and Borders.

The function of ANVS in relation to food products and tobacco is similar to the FDA, although several "gray" areas remain between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, mostly as it relates to food inspection at the ports and airports. The primary function of ANVS is to protect the public health in relation to food, assessing food standards and safety, contaminants, etc.

ANVS is also responsible for registration of any Brazilian established company producing food products, such as canned products, and certain types of juices. Before entering the market, these products must be registered with ANVS and receive a registration number on their labels.

Food companies will be registered for a period of 10 years, while cosmetic and drugs, tobacco products for a period of 5 years. One of the main complaints from Brazilian food companies is the high cost of registration of new food products. This also affects imported food products that need to be registered with ANSV.

(Note: More detailed information on the costs of registration of drugs, foods, and tobacco will be part of a special cable from the Embassy).

The cost of registration of all food products under the ANVS is R\$6,000 (US\$3,570), and it good for 5 years, while the annual registration of tobacco products costs RS\$100,000 (US\$59,500).

Comment: The Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply (MAA) will also create a new agency which is expect to combine under the same structure: animal and plant health; as well grain product and animal products inspection services; and alcoholic and juice and soft drink beverages inspection.

The draft regulation chartering this agency is expected to be published within 60 days, from May 1, 1999.