WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/KOR/853

4 November 2026

(26-7840)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	**Notifying Member:** REPUBLIC OF KOREA **If applicable, name of local government involved:**
2.	**Agency responsible:** The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
3.	**Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):** Health functional food products
4.	**Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:** **[X] All trading partners** **[ ] Specific regions or countries:**
5.	**Title of the notified document:** Partial Amendment Notice (Draft) of Standards and Specifications for Health Functional Foods (Advance Notice No. 2026-512, 23 October 2026). **Language(s):** Korean. **Number of pages:** 76 https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2026/SPS/KOR/26_05594_00_x.pdf
6.	**Description of content:** The proposed amendments seek to: A. Reorganization of the structural framework of the Standards and Specifications for Health Functional Foods (Draft Articles I.2, I.3, I.4, I.5, II.1, II.2, II.3, II.4, II.6, and [Annex 4]) • The provisions for "Collection and Handling of Test Samples" were separated from the general standards and specifications, and "Raw Materials" was relocated to the general manufacturing standards, alongside the removal of unnecessary details and clarification of provisions. B. Expansion of new ingredients for nutrients and establishment of specifications for ingredients to restructure the management system (Draft Articles III.1.1, 4), 6), 7), and 8); III.1-1 4); III.1.1-4 4); III.1.1-11 1); III.1.1-16 1), 2), and 3); III.1.1-17 1), 2), and 3); and [Annex 5]) • Three new ingredients, including calcium L-methylfolate, were added as manufacturing ingredients for folic acid, magnesium, and iron, and component specifications for magnesium and iron ingredients were newly established. C. Improvement of the microbial specification application method for Ginseng and Red Ginseng concentrates (Draft Articles III.2.2-1 2) and III.2.2-2 2)) • The unit for the viable bacterial count specification for concentrates was changed from milliliter (mL) to gram (g). D. Expansion of manufacturing methods for oils and fats containing EPA and DHA (Draft Article III.2.2-16 1))

- Additional manufacturing methods for EPA and DHA-containing oils and fats were permitted to broaden the scope of raw material supply and manufacturing options.

E. Further expansion of the recognized scope of raw materials for mucopolysaccharide protein

(Draft Article III.2.2-32 1) (1))

- Reflecting scientific evidence secured after re-evaluation, "cartilage tissue of sturgeon and skate" was added to diversify raw materials and broaden manufacturing options, thereby strengthening the competitiveness of related products.

F. Expansion of the daily intake range for probiotics

(Draft Article III.2.2-51 3))

- The upper limit of the daily intake for probiotics (10 billion CFU) was removed, changing the standard to "100 million CFU or more".

G. Clarification of daily intake for functional ingredients

(Draft Articles III.2.2-33 3), III.2.2-34 3), III.2.2-35 3), III.2.2-36 3), III.2.2-37 3), III.2.2-38 3), III.2.2-39 3), III.2.2-40 3), III.2.2-41 3), III.2.2-42 3), III.2.2-43 3), III.2.2-44 3), III.2.2-45 3), III.2.2-46 3), III.2.2-58 3), III.2.2-59 3), III.2.2-60 3), III.2.2-62 3), III.2.2-63 3), III.2.2-65 3), III.2.2-66 4), and III.2.2-68 3))

- The daily intake of functional ingredients such as dietary fiber was modified to be based on functional (or marker) components.

7. Objective and rationale: [X] food safety, [ ] animal health, [ ] plant protection, [ ] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ ] protect territory from other damage from pests.

8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:

[ ] Codex Alimentarius Commission *(e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text)*:

[ ] World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) *(e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)*:

[ ] International Plant Protection Convention *(e.g. ISPM number)*:

[X] None

Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?

[ ] Yes [ ] No

If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:

9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:

10. Proposed date of adoption *(dd/mm/yy)*: To be determined.

Proposed date of publication *(dd/mm/yy)*: To be determined.

11. Proposed date of entry into force: [ ] Six months from date of publication, and/or *(dd/mm/yy)*: To be determined.

[ ] Trade facilitating measure

12.	**Final date for comments: [X] Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or *(dd/mm/yy)*:** 3 January 2027 **Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [ ] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:** International Cooperation Office Ministry of Food and Drug Safety #187 Osongsaengmyeong2-ro, Osong-eup, Heungdoek-gu, Cheongju-si Chungcheongbuk-do, 28159, Republic of Korea Tel: +(82 43) 719 1569 Fax: +(82 43) 719 1550 E-mail: intmfds@korea.kr
13.	**Text(s) available from: [ ] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:** International Cooperation Office Ministry of Food and Drug Safety #187 Osongsaengmyeong2-ro, Osong-eup, Heungdoek-gu, Cheongju-si Chungcheongbuk-do, 28159, Republic of Korea Tel: +(82 43) 719 1569 Fax: +(82 43) 719 1550 E-mail: intmfds@korea.kr