



20 November 2015

(15-6171)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	<b>Notifying Member:</b> <u>CHINA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> National Health and Family Planning Commission of the People's Republic of China (NHFPC)
3.	<b>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):</b> Food additive Agar
4.	<b>Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5.	<b>Title of the notified document:</b> National Food Safety Standard: Food additive Agar <b>Language(s):</b> Chinese <b>Number of pages:</b> 5 <a href="http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2015/SPS/CHN/15_4661_00_x.pdf">http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2015/SPS/CHN/15_4661_00_x.pdf</a>
6.	<b>Description of content:</b> This standard applies to food additive Agar, which is made from <i>Gelidium amansii</i> , <i>Gracilaria tenuistipitata</i> , <i>Pyropia</i> and other <i>Rhodophyta</i> as raw material, and obtained through leaching and drying process. It stipulates the technical requirements and test methods for Agar.
7.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.

8.	<p><b>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text)</b> CAC (JECFA 406 Agar)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b></p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b> In this standard, requirements for gel strength and microorganism are deleted. The change is because that detecting instruments of gel strength are not uniform currently in China, which are not included in the instrument list of national metrological verification. Therefore, domestic food inspection laboratory cannot provide the detecting data of gel strength via measurement certification. Moreover, many corporations have researched new agar products with lower gel strength, which are used in liquid and semi liquid food, and have broad application prospects. In addition, agar as food additive is not an instant product, and there is no need to specify microorganism index.</p>
9.	<p><b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> None</p>
10.	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> To be determined.</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> To be determined.</p>
11.	<p><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): To be determined.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
12.	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 19 January 2016</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p>
13.	<p><b>Text(s) available from:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p>