

ABC Global Update

Russia: New Draft of Organic Regulations Available for Public Comment

In July 2014, the Russian State Duma Committee announced the start of public comments and expert evaluations of a draft version of National Standard (GOST) "Regulation of Organic Production" which closed on September 15, 2014. The GOST is prepared in accordance with the Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of June 28, 2007, on organic production and describes the requirements for organic production and labelling.

The GOST includes lists of fertilizers, plant protection products and agricultural chemicals which are allowed for use in organic production. Post is working on preparing the unofficial translation of the Standard and will publish it as soon as completed. The final law is anticipated to come into force in 2015.

EU Special Measures Lifted in September

As of September 3, consignments of California Almonds arriving in Europe without a valid VASP certificate would not be automatically rejected. Shippers have been encouraged to continue to utilize the VASP program to avoid possible disruptions, as it is anticipated that European import authorities will focus their surveillance on consignments without a VASP. ABC staff will be following up with industry members to monitor the situation; please advise Julie Adams (jadams@almondboard.com) or Sue

Olson (solson@almondboard.com) if you have any consignments detained.

Lifting Special Measures was a precursor to the European Commission granting pre-export recognition to almonds – shipments under this voluntary program will be subject to <1% controls on import.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation May Restrict Use of Chlorpyrifos

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) is seeking to limit the use of chlorpyrifos, over concerns for water quality and worker safety. There has been tremendous political pressure to further regulate the use of chlorpyrifos. The chemical is one of the most widely used in the agriculture industry, with a reported 1.1 million pounds applied to California crops in 2012.

CDPR's proposal is to make chlorpyrifos a California restricted use material. Growers would need to obtain an application permit from the county agricultural commissioner. The commissioner would consider other site-specific conditions before issuing the permit. Applicants also must have a recommendation from a PCA and the application can only be done by applicators trained for restricted use materials.

CDPR has opened up a 45-day comment period beginning September 26. For more information, please see the following [CDPR press release](#)

EU Establishes Temporary MRL to Address Phosphonates

The EU has established a temporary MRL to address higher residues of phosphonates that may be found in crops including almonds. The issue arose due to the EU defining phosphonates as pesticides and not also as fertilizers. These compounds are often present as a result of fertilizer or other legal applications, but which are now regulated as pesticides in the EU.

ABC is working closely with the walnut and pistachio industry, as well as international organizations like the INC, to gather data which will support establishment of an appropriate MRL for phosphonates. If you have any questions, please contact Gabriele Ludwig at ABC (gludwig@almondboard.com)

USDA Tree Nut Reports Highlight Export Competitiveness of U.S. Almonds

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has published three GAIN reports in the past weeks detailing almond production, import, and export trends around the world.

According to a September 8 report, almond production in Chile declined by 70 percent in MY 2013/14 due to unseasonable frost in September 2013. Production is expected to rebound this year, assuming normal weather conditions resume during the upcoming spring 2014 season. In MY 2013/14, Chile exported 8,500 metric tons (MT) of almonds, mostly shelled. Chile primarily exports to

markets where it receives a preferential tariff, such as Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Venezuela, and the European Union. FAS estimates that Chilean almond exports in MY 2014/15 at 6,500 MT. Chile imported 3,500 MT of almonds from the US in 2013/14 which are primarily used in the confectionary industry. To see more from this report, go [here](#).

A September 12 report on the Indian tree nut market states that India produces just a limited amount of almonds domestically, approximately 1100 MT in 2013/14. The US accounted for 73% of India's imported almond supply in 2013/14, a 10% decline from the previous year. The decline in India almond imports is expected to continue into 2014/15 due to rising almond prices and a weakening rupee. Demand for tree nuts peaks during India's holiday season, which extends from September to January. To see more from this report, go [here](#).

Finally, according to the September 15 USDA report on the European Union tree nut market, the EU produced 60,437 MT of almonds in the 2013/14 marketing year. Spain continues to be the largest European almond producer accounting for nearly 75 percent of the EU total production. Greece and Italy are the second and third largest producers, accounting for 8,500 MT (14.1%) and 5,000 MT (8.3%) respectively in 2013/14. EU almond production is forecast to increase 19.4% to 72,151 MT in the upcoming 2014/15 season. However, the US continues to be the dominant supplier of almonds to the European market. During MY 2012/13, the EU imported 207,982 MT of almonds, 92.6% of which originated in the US. The Report also notes the removal of special import conditions as of September 3, 2014. To see more from this report, go [here](#).

India: 8th Food and Grocery Forum India 2015

The 8th annual Food and Grocery Forum India (FGFI) food show will be held during January 14-16, 2015, in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The 2015 FGFI show and subsequent conference will be sponsored by the Forum of Indian Food Importers and the National Restaurant Association of India, and will be organized by the Images Group, in association with the Ministry of Food Processing.

Dependent on budget availability, USDA hopes to establish a presence with a booth at the show and provide on-site assistance to the participating U.S. agricultural cooperators, U.S. companies, and other stakeholders.

The Almond Conference is Getting Close!

The Almond Conference will be held December 9-11 at the Sacramento Convention Center. Several sessions are of particular interest to shippers. On Tuesday, Dec. 9, session entitled "*Exporter Overview*" will provide an opportunity to discuss some of the most relevant issues in our key export markets. Getting shipper input on their concerns will help ABC better focus outreach and government engagement.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, a luncheon session will be held to discuss FDA's food safety regulations, specifically the FSMA supplementary proposals released on four of the proposed rules. Speakers from FDA will be present, along with Acheson Group which has been reviewing the rules. It is imperative that the almond industry understand how these rules will impact operations going forward, and implications in our export markets.

We hope you will join us for these important sessions.

Upcoming Travel

- **October 12-20, 2014**
Karen Lapsley Istanbul, Turkey for the International Functional Foods Conference and meetings.
- **October 14-17, 2017**
Harbinder Maan, Becky Sereno, Dariela Roffe-Racking and Stacey Humble in Shanghai, China for meetings with PR and creative agencies.
- **October 20-23, 2014**
Karen Lapsley in Paris, France for Paris Health Professional Roundtable.
- **October 27- Nov 4, 2014**
Julie Adams in India with a US-India Business Council delegation and for regulatory meetings, then in Shanghai for the China Food Safety Conference.

Document #2014GTRA0038