

Monthly FAEA Report (10/26/2020)

Highlights

BFSA: Bangladesh Food Safety Authority organized a stakeholder consultation meeting on the Food Safety (Product recall) Regulation on 18 October, 2020.

BSTI: During the 34th Council Meeting of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), it was decided to include 43 new essential products under the mandatory quality certificate.

DLS: Department of Livestock Services (DLS) formed a technical committee for providing import clearing decisions on live animals, birds, and ready to eat feed and other relevant items.

Codex: BSTI and BFSA expressed their interest to apply for the trust fund of Codex.

Monthly Developments

Food Safety

Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA):

After compiling and analysing all the comments and feedback from the stakeholders, BFSA organized a face to face consultation meeting on the draft Food Safety (Product Recall) Regulation on 18 October, 2020. Representatives from private food sectors, Bangladesh Agro processors association (BAPA), Metropolitan chamber of commerce, Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI), BSTI, Consumers right's protection wings, DAE, DLS, MoF, etc, were present at the consultation meeting.

As the food safety focal point, BFSA is interested in applying for funding under the Codex trust fund for food safety capacity development and establishing a food safety regulatory framework in Bangladesh in line with international best practices.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI):

During the 34th Council Meeting scheduled on 25 October 2020, BSTI decided to include 43 new essential products under the mandatory quality certificate that also includes some of FAEA's listed dairy items such as low-fat milk, flavored milk, ice lolly, etc. However, the full list of products and BDS standards will not be shared until BSTI formally publishes the list of products and their respective standards.

Animal Health and Production

Department of Livestock Services:

A five member technical committee was formed by the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) on 28 October 2020 for providing import clearing decisions on live animals, birds, domestic animals, ready to eat feeds, and other relevant items. The committee is responsible for reviewing requests for imports of livestock related products and for authenticating the compliance of import policy order 2015-2018 (ongoing)/2018-2021 (to be promulgated), Animal Disease Act; 2005, Animal disease Rules; 2008, Animal Quarantine Act; 2015 and other relevant terms and conditions.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE):

No significance changes to report in DAE or PQW (Plant Quarantine Wing) regulations or policies.

Codex:

As the Codex contact point and Food safety focal point BSTI and BFSA, respectively expressed their interest in applying for funds under the Codex trust fund. Both organizations are interested in utilizing the funds to harmonize national standards in compliance with requirements under their WTO agreement.

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