INFORMATION LETTER N°1484

Date: October 02, 2013

Information: Update on Food Allergy Labeling in Japan

Topic: Addition of two items to specified ingredients list for allergy labeling in Japan

Category: Allergy Labeling

Key Message: On September 20, 2013 Consumer Affairs Agency, Government of Japan (CAA) issued a notice that CASHEW NUT and SESAME were added to items “recommended” for allergy labeling. With these latest additions, there are now 27 items on the list of specified ingredients containing allergens in Japan, divided into two labeling categories – mandatory and recommended. The CAA notice also required the industry (food products and additives) to assure the best possible labeling of newly added items by August 31, 2014.

Background: In Japan, the CAA governs the labeling system for foods containing allergens. This was formerly handled by the MHLW. See chart below for details of the specified ingredients. Note that among the 27, seven require mandatory allergen labeling by law per Cabinet Office Ordinance because they have been found to be the cause of the largest number and most serious allergic cases. The CAA recommends allergen labeling by Notice for the remaining 20, for three reasons: because reported allergy cases are either small in number; serious cases are infrequent; or scientific knowledge is not always sufficient at the present time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labeling</th>
<th>Name of Specified Ingredients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandatory</strong> by Cabinet Office Ordinance (7 items)</td>
<td>Shrimp/prawn, crab, wheat, buckwheat, egg, milk and peanuts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended</strong> by Notice (20 items)</td>
<td>abalone, squid, salmon roe, oranges, <strong>cashew nut</strong>, kiwifruit, beef, walnuts, sesame, salmon, mackerel, soybeans, chicken, bananas, pork, “<strong>matsutake”</strong> mushrooms, peaches, yams, apples and gelatin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JFFMA has requested that all member companies provide full compliance information for both of labeling and documentation (product description, specification sheets, etc.) for these specified ingredients, regardless if the labelling is mandatory or recommended.

Intended Audience: All IOFI members

Related Information Letters: 1317, 1318

Potential Impact to Industry: Understanding and complying with labeling requirements supports the safe use of flavorings.

Recommended Action: IOFI members should make colleagues involved with import/export with Japan aware of this information.

For further information: Please contact IOFI at secretariat@iofiorg.org.