



# Canadian Spice Association

ASTA 2010 Annual Meeting and Exhibits

April 27, 2010

Presented by Tiina Henkusens  
Technical & Governmental Affairs



- Canada's national association representing approximately 80% of the Canadian spice industry with over 40 member companies
- Celebrating 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011.

# Agenda

- Food Allergen Labelling Regulations
- Gluten Free Labelling
- Precautionary Allergen Labelling
- Chemical Management Plan
- Sodium Reduction Strategy
- Regulatory Activities
  - Organic Regulations
  - Unenriched flour
  - Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for Imports
  - Trans Fat Monitoring
- Division 7 Working Group Update

# Food Allergen Labelling

Update by Samuel Godefroy, Director General, Food Directorate

From I. E. Canada Food Forum

- Final regulations in Gazette II spring/summer 2010
- Changes from original proposal:
  - Implementation period > 12 months
  - Mustard as a priority allergen
  - Shorten statement to “Contains:”
  - Simplify declaration for sulphites and wheat varieties
- Comprehensive directive within the next few months

# Gluten Free Labelling

Update by Samuel Godefroy, D. G. Food Directorate, I. E. Canada Forum

- Health Canada studying options for “Gluten- free” labelling
  - Will reflect science around Celiac disease
  - Current practice < 20 ppm gluten
- Public consultations prior to regulatory amendments

# Precautionary Allergen Labelling

- Health Canada consultation Oct/09
  - Warning labelling for inadvertent and unavoidable presence of allergens through cross contact
  - Not addressed in proposed Allergen Regulations
- CSA Response Feb/10
  - Support regulated statements, but voluntary guidelines for risk assessments, documentation and GMPs
  - Do not support a consumer notification program
  - Engage U.S. trading partners and establish thresholds

# CEPA – Chemicals Management Plan

## Screening Assessments

### ■ BHA

- Not harmful to human health or environment at current levels of exposure

### ■ Acrylamide

- Toxic - with greatest exposure from inadvertent formation in food
- Health Canada strategy – industry voluntarily reduce levels, monitoring program, international collaboration
- No recommended “safe” levels - moderation

# CEPA – Chemicals Management Plan

## Screening Assessments

- Methyl Eugenol
  - Spices and spice essential oils primary contributors (basil, tarragon, lemon grass, bay, nutmeg, allspice, cloves, mace)
  - Health Canada did not find evidence of risk to Canadians
  - Lack of data – Health Canada will request usage information from industry



# CEPA – Chemicals Management Plan

- High Priority Chemicals - Final batch
  - Batch 12 – reporting deadline April 27, 2010
- Medium Priority Chemicals
  - 3000 substances including some spices
  - First 500 – reporting deadline March 30, 2010

# Sodium Reduction Strategy

- Multi-stakeholder working group
  - Established goal to reduce sodium consumption by 5% per year for 6 years
    - UL 2300mg/d – 2016    ■ UL 1500 mg/d - 2020
- Final voluntary strategy with product category targets June 2010
- National Awareness and Education Campaign

# Regulatory Activities

- Organic regulations
  - Equivalency – U.S., EU
  - Permitted Substances List – Revised Dec/09
- Prohibition against the sale of unenriched flour in Canada
  - Letter to Industry June/09
  - Impact to imports
  - Industry request exemption for “minor uses

# Regulatory Activities

- Electronic reporting (EDI) for brokers and importers started March 2010
- Trans Fat monitoring
  - Voluntary strategy for industry to limit trans fat to 5% of total fat
  - 73% products comply; 74% food service establishments in compliance
  - Provincial regulations in B.C.

# Division 7 Working Group Update

- Sale of spices and herbs are regulated under the Food and Drugs Act
- Compositional standards for 31 spices and herbs
  - Limits for VO, moisture, crude fibre, ash, AIA etc.
  - Plant species identified
- Outdated and stricter than some global standards
- Submission for an IMA in 2008 to CFIA
- Developing a strategy to lobby Health Canada to modernize the regulations
- Prepare brief, presentation and data for November 2010



Thank you

Questions?

