



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### IFPTI to Host Two Sessions on FSVP in Southern California

We have received several requests to let our customers know about any training for U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP). Soon, the FDA will be requiring additional data, and food importers will need to know about their responsibilities.

The International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI) will be presenting two separate two-day sessions on this important topic, One in Long Beach on March, 16-17 and the other in San Pedro on April, 20-21.

Information for those concerned with FSVP can find additional information about the sessions on IFPTI's website at: <https://ifpti.org/events/fspca-foreign-supplier-verification-programs-course-held-in-long-beach-california-3162017-3172017/> and <https://ifpti.org/events/fspca-foreign-supplier-verification-programs-course-san-pedro-ca-4-20-2017-4-21-2017/>

### Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) Rules Will Require Additional Data Elements

Under the Food Safety Modernization ACT (FSMA), additional information for FDA regulated food importation subject to the Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) will be required, beginning in May of 2017.

Most food entries will be subject to FSVP and the following elements will be required:

- Name of FSVP importer (not necessarily the same as the importer of record)
- Unique Facility identifier for the FSVP importer (currently only DUNS number can be used)
- Contact email address for the FSVP importer

The FSVP importer is responsible for verifying the food safety practices of the foreign supplier.

### Trade Groups Petition FMC on Demurrage and Detention

A trade group of 26 trade associations have formed the Coalition for Fair Port Practices. The coalition includes associations representing importers, exporters, truckers, freight forwarders, customs brokers and 3PL's. The coalition has petitioned the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) to request a rulemaking proceeding to adopt a rule that will clarify just and reasonable rules and practices under the Shipping Act in dealing with the assessment of demurrage, detention, and per diem charges by ocean carriers and terminal operators, when ports are congested or otherwise inaccessible.

The petition proposes a rule that would have the FMC formally state that it would be unreasonable for a common carrier or a marine terminal operator to fail to extend free time or to collect demurrage, detention or per diem fees for a period when a "disability" exists that prevents the receiving of cargo or equipment and/or the tendering of cargo or equipment.

The FMC has received this 209 page petition and assigned it as Petition No. P4-16. The FMC will review all comments that have been submitted and issue a report. We will watch for any action on this issue.

### FDA Issues Guidance on New Food Labeling Requirement

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has issued two guidance documents on the proposed changes to the nutritional facts label requirements. The first guidance answers questions related to compliance such as labeling of added sugars, rounding as it relates to the declaration of quantitative amounts of vitamins and minerals, and label format such as thickness of lines and space between lines.

The second guidance provides examples of food products that belong to product categories included in the tables of Reference Amounts Customarily Consumed (RACCs) per eating occasion, which are established in the FDA's serving size regulations. These examples will help industry identify the appropriate food categories for their products and, in turn, determine the serving size on a product's nutrition facts label.

The final rules for the changes were issued in May of 2016, and are scheduled to go into effect in July of 2018 Both Guidance documents can be found on the FDA's website at: <https://www.fda.gov/Food/NewsEvents/ConstituentUpdates/ucm535373.htm> and at [https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/ucm535368.htm?source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/ucm535368.htm?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

**Bv Todd Boice, President**