

**法規名稱：**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING GOVERNING THE WAIVER OF IMPORT FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS BETWEEN TAIWAN AND AUSTRALIA BETWEEN THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA AND THE AUSTRALIAN OFFICE IN TAIPEI

**簽訂日期：**民國 105 年 05 月 06 日

**生效日期：**民國 105 年 05 月 06 日

#### BACKGROUND

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) embodies understandings between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Australia and the Australian Office in Taipei (hereinafter referred to as the Participants) and sets out a framework through which the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, may work with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan, in order to facilitate the trade of dairy products between Taiwan and Australia through the reduction or waiver of food safety inspections. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and FDA are collectively referred to as the Competent Authorities.

Through this MOU, the Participants intend to:

- ensure that dairy products traded between Taiwan and Australia are safe, wholesome and meet relevant laws, regulations and requirements established by Taiwan and Australia (hereinafter referred to as Requirements); and
- recognise that Taiwan ' s export inspection and certification systems, as applied to dairy products, meet Australia ' s Requirements subject to successful completion of an assessment of Taiwan ' s food certification and inspection system; and where possible under the Imported Food Control Act 1992, reduce the frequency of the import food safety inspection in the event that the export of dairy products from Taiwan to Australia is accompanied by export certification which is issued by the FDA (hereinafter referred to as the Certificate); and

- recognise that Australia's export inspection and certification systems, as applied to dairy products, meet Taiwan's Requirements; and reduce the frequency of the import food safety inspection in the event that the export of dairy products from Australia to Taiwan is accompanied by export certification which is issued by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (hereinafter referred to as the Certificate).
- These intentions embodied in this MOU are set out as follows:

#### 1. SCOPE AND EFFECT OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This MOU covers dairy products which are produced and made in the territories of the Participants and accompanied by a Certificate. A Certificate will not be issued unless the dairy products concerned meet the Requirements. Harmonised System Codes of dairy products that are subject to this MOU are listed in Annex to this MOU.

#### 2. OPERATION OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Nothing in this MOU affects in any way, the rights and obligations of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu and Australia under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization ( " WTO Agreement " ).

#### 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

- 3.1 The Competent Authorities will operate according to their own export inspection and certification programs covering the export of dairy products, as described in:

In the case of the FDA, the Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation and associated Standards, including the Sanitary Standard for Milk and Milk Products, Pesticide Residue Limits in Meat Products and Scope and Application Standards of Food Additives, that also require that dairy products exported from Taiwan meet government requirements of an importing authority, in this case, the Department of

Agriculture and Water Resources, as provided under the Imported Food Control Act 1992.

In the case of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Export Control Act 1982 and associated Regulations and Orders, including the Export Control (Milk and Milk Products) Orders 2005 that also require that dairy products exported from Australia meet government requirements of an importing authority, in this case, FDA. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will only certify dairy products made in Australia that comply with the Export Control Act 1982 and associated Regulations and Orders, including the Export Control (Milk and Milk Products) Orders 2005.

- 3.2 In the operation of the Requirements, the Competent Authorities will mutually recognise each other as a foreign importing authority that is capable of providing inspection and certification of dairy products such that:

The import food safety inspection upon the trade of dairy products from Australia to Taiwan will be reduced to not more than 2% of import shipments.

The import food safety inspection upon the trade of dairy products from Taiwan to Australia will be reduced to a percentage, in line with the Imported Food Control Act 1992, after Australia recognises that Taiwan's export inspection and certification systems as applied to dairy products, meet Australia's requirements subject to successful completion of an assessment of Taiwan's food certification and inspection system.

- 3.3 Each Competent Authority will immediately notify the other in writing where a breach of the Requirements is found.
- 3.4 The Competent Authorities will inform each other in writing of any proposed variations to the Requirements.

3.5 The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will prepare an annual report for the FDA on the compliance with the Requirements of establishments registered by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to export dairy products and their products, when these have been exported to Taiwan the preceding year.

3.6 In the instance that a systems audit is required to initiate and to continue the waived or reduced frequency of import food safety inspection, each Participant should cover its expenses associated with conducting the audit of the other Participant's systems unless otherwise mutually decided.

#### 4. ASSESSMENT AND VERIFICATION PROVISIONS

4.1 Each Competent Authority will check the validity of Certificates accompanying shipments of dairy products issued by the other Competent Authority.

4.2 Each Competent Authority will conduct random verification sampling of dairy products exported from the territory of the other Participant under this MOU. The verification sampling will be conducted at the following rate:

- a) For imports of Australian dairy products into Taiwan, at a rate of no more than 2 percent of shipments arriving.
- b) For imports of Taiwanese dairy products into Australia, at the most favourable rate available under the Imported Food Control Act 1992.

In the event that a breach of the Requirements is found by a Competent Authority, the rate thereof may be modified subject to review and the discretion of the Competent Authority concerned prior to the expiration of the every three (3) year period provided in Paragraph 9 of this MOU.

4.3 These assessments will be conducted taking into account the “ Guidelines on procedures for conducting an assessment and verification by an importing country of inspection and certification systems of an exporting country ” contained in the Annex to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)

“ Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems ” (CAC/GL 26-1997).

#### 5. TRANSPARENCY, INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION

The Competent Authorities will cooperate and communicate as appropriate in relation to the operation of this MOU. This will include, but not be limited to, communication and cooperation on legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines concerning enforcement and inspection. Specific information that will be exchanged to facilitate the continued operation of this MOU includes:

- (a) Descriptions of adverse findings during inspections conducted by a Competent Authority that may cause product in trade to fail the Requirements.
- (b) Descriptions of adverse findings of random compliance checks carried out by a Competent Authority and the disposition of implicated product and inspection rates that may be applicable to subsequent shipments.
- (c) Falsification of Certificates.
- (d) Any standard, guideline and their subsequent amendment made by the Codex where the commitments of the Competent Authorities under this MOU may be involved.

#### 6. NOTIFICATIONS

The Competent Authorities will utilise the Codex "Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Control Emergency Situations" (CAC/GL 19-1995) when there is an identified risk of serious public health effects related to the trade of dairy products between Taiwan and Australia.

#### 7. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

In the event of disagreement between the Participants in relation to the interpretation or application of this MOU, the Participants should seek consultations between the Competent Authorities, without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu and Australia under the WTO

Agreement, or to the Participants' rights of resort to the dispute settlement mechanisms of other international organisations or to those that are established under any other international agreement, or to relevant dispute settlement mechanisms applicable in the territories of the Competent Authorities.

#### 8. LIAISON OFFICIALS

Taiwan	Australia
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Section Chief	Assistant Secretary
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Food and Drug Administration	Export Standards Branch
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Ministry of Health and Welfare	Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
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No. 161-2, Kunyang St., Taipei, Taiwan R.O.C.	GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA
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#### 9. REVIEW, MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

The provisions of this MOU will be reviewed every three (3) years from the date of coming into effect.

This MOU may be amended and supplemented as mutually consented to in writing by both Participants at any time.

Either Participant may terminate this MOU at any time by giving six (6) months' prior written notice to the other Participant. This MOU will cease to have effect six (6) months after receipt thereof by the other Participant.

#### 10. COMING INTO EFFECT

This MOU will come into effect on the date of the last signature, and replace the Memorandum of Understanding



Governing the Waiver of Import Food Safety Inspection of Dairy Products between Taiwan and Australia between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia and the Australian Office in Taipei signed on 22 November 2010.

Signed in two originals in the English language.

For Taipei Economic  
and Cultural Office in  
Australia

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Dr David Lee  
Representative, TECO

Date: 4/29/2016  
Place: TAIPEI

For Australian  
Office in Taipei

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Ms Catherine Raper  
Representative, AO

Date: 6/5/2016  
Place: TAIPEI