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CFDA Holds Seminar on Cosmetics and Drugs

To improve the regulation over medicines and cosmetics, the state regulator of food and drug recently held a training seminar in Beijing over laws and regulations in the fields of drugs and cosmetics.

Over 150 local authorities from 31 provinces and regions attended the training.

The seminar mainly covers regulation of food and drug, the latest update of legalization of drugs globally, the update over drug management regulation, and other relevant regulations.

The seminar combines the latest update of drug and cosmetics legalization with requirement of legal development of drugs and food. (Source: CFDA)

More Imported Food Fails China's Quality Tests

China's consumer quality watchdog said that 35,000 tons of imported food products failed to pass quality inspections last year, up 325.2 percent year on year.

Those products, coming from 82 countries and regions, had a total value of 56.54 million U.S. dollars, up 135.5 percent year on year, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said in a white paper.

They failed examinations due to incompliance with Chinese laws, regulations and standards, and thus were not permitted to enter China, the paper said.



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Top reasons for their failures included excessive amounts of additives, microbial contamination and substandard quality.

The administration described the safety situation of imported food as "generally stable."

In 2016, the administration improved the supervision network for imported food and conducted strict inspection and quarantine to ensure food safety, according to the paper.

"There were no major safety problems associated with imported food in the entire year," the authority said.

As people's lives improve, demand for imported food products has risen consistently. In the past five years, the value of China's food imports rose by an annualized rate of 2.6 percent. (Source: Xinhua)

Informants to Get More Cash Rewards Over Food, Drugs Scandals



Chinese authorities announced Tuesday a raise in cash rewards for whistleblowers who report on food safety, drugs, cosmetics, health products, and

medical equipment.

The China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA) and the Ministry of Finance stated that a single tip-off will be rewarded with up to 500,000 yuan (about 75,000 U.S. dollars) instead of the previous limit of 300,000 yuan.

The regulation also states that informants who are insiders in the product's development, manufacture, sales or applications could be rewarded with extra cash on top of the new limit.

It also states clearly that the identities of informants should be strictly protected. Anonymous reporters will get a code from food and drug supervisors as a way to claim rewards.

Food safety, long a headache for Chinese customers, poses a severe challenge for quality watchdogs due to the vast amount of food on sale and the limited number of supervisory staff. (Source: Xinhua)

State Council Extends Cross-Border Zones to Facilitate E-Commerce

China will set up more cross-border e-commerce pilot zones to facilitate trade and boost China's global competitiveness, under a decision made at a State Council executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday.

The meeting decided to extend the success of such zones to more cities with good infrastructure and strong trade and e-commerce development potential. The State Council set up the original initiative in Hangzhou in 2015 before it was expanded to another 12 cities, including Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing, starting in early 2016.

Some practices are going national, like online



comprehensive service platforms with customs clearance, logistics, tax refunds, payment, fundraising and risk control services, and offline industrial parks with whole-industrial-chain services.

"We need to enable the healthy development of cross-border e-commerce and speed up the growth of new engines, making the foreign trade sector more adaptive to new circumstances and better endowed with new advantages," Li said. "Prospects for cross-border e-commerce are very bright."



According to the Ministry of Commerce, 220 countries and regions were covered by China's cross-border e-commerce network as of 2016, with sales of 5.85 trillion yuan (\$890 billion), a 28.2 percent year-on-year increase.

The total volume of foreign trade via cross-border e-commerce in the 13 zones hit 163.7 billion yuan in 2016, up by more than 100 percent year-on-year. Over 400 third-party platforms were set up and 20,000 cross-border e-commerce trade companies established in the zones.

The government will streamline administration, enhance compliance oversight and improve service.

Developing the value chain also helps, including overseas storage facilities covering key countries and markets and logistics networks.

"We need to expand and clone accumulated good experience and practices, and lay down the rules in a timely manner. The new growth drivers' capacity to boost employment, extend the industry chain and buttress growth cannot be overestimated," the premier said.

Exploration and innovation by the zones was supported. Online platforms will be integrated to better provide one-stop services to share information, regulatory credentials and enforcement resources. The government will push for further development of the sector's credit system and improve ways to evaluate e-commerce, safeguard transactions, better protect consumers and intellectual property rights and manage risks.

"Government oversight should be both enabling and prudent. Producers and platform companies should live up to their responsibilities, while the government's focus is on enhancing compliance oversight," Li said. (Source: China Daily)

China Delays Deadline for Implementing Food Import Rules After Industry Pushback

China plans to delay a deadline for implementing new food import regulations by two years until October 2019, a senior EU official said on Tuesday, following a lobbying effort by Europe and the United States amid concerns about disruption to trade.

The extension comes just days before the new rules, which are part of a drive by China to boost oversight of its sprawling food supply chain, were due to come into force.

Jerome Lepeintre, minister counsellor for health and

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food safety at the European Union delegation in Beijing, said he received official documents on Monday night confirming the decision to delay had been logged with the World Trade Organization (WTO), as required by global trade rules.

Lepeintre said the move was “very positive” and would give exporters time to comply with the regulations, which were announced in April 2016 and require all food imports to carry health certificates, even if the product is deemed low-risk.



European and U.S. government and trade officials have warned the rules would hamper billions of dollars of shipments to the world’s No. 2 economy of everything from pasta to coffee and biscuits.

China asked for the change to be circulated by the WTO in a Sept. 22 communication to the organisation, a document published on WTO’s website showed.

“The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China is currently studying the comments from relevant countries/regions,” said the notification.

“According to the comments and application received, we hereby decide to provide a transitional period of 2 years: from 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2019,” added the agency, which oversees the safety of all imports into China.

AQSIQ did not respond to a fax requesting comment from Reuters.

China has delayed enforcing other tough new trade regulations this year, including rules on the cross-border retail market and cyber security, after industry pushback. (Source: Reuters)

China Updates is published weekly by the U.S. – China Health Products Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of dietary supplements and nutritional ingredients. The association's major focus is the continued development of China's overall natural health product industry and to offer its global members a wide variety of business services to assist in their China endeavors.



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