NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

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| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** Canada **If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):**  |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:** Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)**Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:** Canada's Notification Authority and Enquiry PointGlobal Affairs CanadaTechnical Barriers and Regulations Division 111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2CanadaTelephone: (343)203-4273Fax: (613)943-0346E-mail: enquirypoint@international.gc.ca |
| **3.** | **Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [****], 5.6.2 [****], 5.7.1 [****], other:** |
| **4.** | **Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):** Alcoholic beverages (HS Code: 220860; ICS Codes: 67.160.10) |
| **5.** | **Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:** Notice of Intent to amend the Food and Drug Regulations to update the vodka standard (available in English and in French)   |
| **6.** | **Description of content:** The federal vodka standard under the *Food and Drug Regulations* (FDR) regulates what inter-provincially traded or imported products can be labelled as vodka. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency intends to implement amendments to modernize the vodka compositional standard and is seeking feedback on the proposed changes to the *Food and Drug Regulations*.The proposed amendments will modernize the standard of identity for vodka to enable industry to take full advantage of innovation and market developments, removing barriers to trade, and enable businesses to be more competitive and grow. The proposed amendments include: * Requiring vodka to be a potable alcoholic distillate produced from any material of agricultural origin.
* Allowing flexibility in cases where vodka is produced from agricultural material other than potato or cereal grain to have some distinctive character, aroma or taste.

Additional labelling and advertising requirements for vodka produced from agricultural material other than potato or cereal grain and requirements to include the common name reflecting the agricultural material when there are distinctive character, aroma or taste remaining (e.g. vodka produced from apples would be labelled and advertised as "Apple Vodka"). |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:** The proposed amendments are part of a Government of Canada action to enhance economic competitiveness and improve trade. Modernizing and expanding the vodka standard will encourage innovation in the distillery sector and allow broader trade of spirits vodka, both within Canada’s borders and across the world.The proposal was drafted with a view to make it more inclusive and innovative by allowing flexibility in the ingredients and characteristics of vodka and labelling non-traditional vodka products appropriately. |
| **8.** | **Relevant documents:** The Notice of Intent for this regulatory proposal is available from the following web sites, in English and French:<http://inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/accountability/consultations-and-engagement/notice-of-intent/eng/1547142819027/1547142850073> (English)<http://inspection.gc.ca/au-sujet-de-l-acia/responsabilisation/consultation-et-participation/avis-d-intention/fra/1547142819027/1547142850073> (French)  |
| **9.** | **Proposed date of adoption:** To be determined.**Proposed date of entry into force:** The regulations will come into force on the day they are published in Canada Gazette Part II. |
| **10.** | **Final date for comments:** 15 March 2019 |
| **11.** | **Texts available from: National enquiry point [****X] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:** The electronic version of the regulatory text can be downloaded at: <http://inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/accountability/consultations-and-engagement/notice-of-intent/eng/1547142819027/1547142850073><http://inspection.gc.ca/au-sujet-de-l-acia/responsabilisation/consultation-et-participation/avis-d-intention/fra/1547142819027/1547142850073> |