

Coalition Update: November 17, 2011

I wanted to update you on FDA's current position in regard to its proposed Import Inspection fees program and our plans respecting the Coalition Task Force. As we explained recently, FDA extended the comment period to November 30th for all of the new FSMA fees programs. However, with respect to the Import Inspection fees program in particular, FDA also announced that it will be shelving this portion of the fees proposal until after the New Year. FDA stated and we reported on September 30, 2011 that due to "the particular complexities involved in . . . issues [associated with the import reinspection fees program], FDA is not in a position to assess import reinspection fees until the agency has resolved these issues and the agency notifies the public." Because FDA must issue a new Federal Register notice proposing the fees after the first of the year we have decided it is best to wait until after FDA reissues the proposal for the Coalition to submit comments. FDAImports.com and ExporttoUSA.com.cn will be submitting comments and we are available to assist you and your company if you are planning to submit individual comments by the November 30th deadline.

We are in a holding pattern until FDA determines its next step with respect to these "particular complexities involved in . . . [FDA's] issues". This delay, however, indicates that we do have FDA's attention and the industry is being heard. We will continue to keep you informed of any new information we learn related to the import inspection fees.

If we can assist you with anything please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Ben England