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Dr. Ping:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is writing to you to request that the College of Food Science and Engineering within the Ocean University of China offer a class on manufacturing of acidified foods (as defined in United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 21 Section 114) and low-acid canned foods (as defined in United States CFR Part 21 Section 113). FDA regulations mandate participation in and successful completion of this type of class for manufacturers who export these products to the United States. Currently, a large number of food manufacturers in China who produce these products have not fulfilled this requirement.

FDA will provide previously-developed, standardized instructional materials and exams for your use. We believe that your College of Food Science and Engineering faculty possesses the technical expertise and teaching experience needed to instruct the class.

In addition to successful completion of the class, FDA requires manufacturers of acidified and low-acid canned foods to register their firms and each different product with FDA. As part of FDA's annual work plan, we conduct inspections of food processors overseas, which include many located in China. Our inspectional findings of these manufacturers in the last two years (2009-2010) have demonstrated there is vital need for the class here. Numerous manufacturers have recently been cited for a variety of violations related specifically to 21 CFR 113 and 21 CFR 114 requirements. At FDA, our experience has revealed that the vast majority of these violations result from lack of knowledge, and are not the product of willful disregard of U.S. requirements.

We anticipate that the class will be attended by Chinese manufacturers as well as selected current students in the area of food science.

Manufactured food products in China have experienced explosive growth in the last decade. To stay competitive in today's global market place, Chinese food manufacturers will be increasingly pressed to deliver safe, quality products that meet high safety standards. The availability of this class will help to strengthen the safety of food, not only for American consumers, but for the domestic Chinese market as well.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



In the future, we look forward to working with you and your faculty on this and other projects.

Best regards,

Christopher Hickey, Ph.D.
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