Dear Readers,

Please find below the latest Food, Cosmetics, and Nutraceuticals Committee’s FCN Digest. Every other week, the FCN Digest will provide you with significant developments and updates in the food, cosmetics, and nutraceuticals arena. Please feel free to contact us at the listed email addresses with any questions, comments, or contributions that you may have regarding the FCN Digest.

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FOOD

U.S. Department of Agriculture Clears New GMO Potato Variety.
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cleared genetically modified organisms (GMO) potato varieties developed by two companies, Calyxt and J.R. Simplot Co. (Simplot). Generally, GMO potatoes have reduced bruising and potential carcinogenic chemicals when cooked. Although proponents claim there is no evidence that GMOs are unsafe to consumers, retailers such as McDonald’s have rejected using GMO potatoes for its french fries. Simplot plans on clearing its GMO potatoes through a voluntary review process with the FDA before marketing the potatoes next Spring.


COSMETICS

L’Oreal Faces Another Lawsuit Over Amla Legend Relaxer.
L’Oreal is faced with its second lawsuit over its SoftSheen-Carson Optimum Amla Legend No-Mix-No-Lye Relaxer for hair. The first lawsuit from September involved a class action suit alleging injuries and burns as a result of using the product. The latest suit is from a female also alleging physical injuries such as, burning and balding of the hair. In the suit filed by attorney, Mark Geragos, the relaxer “contains hardly any Amla oil at all,” but rather, contains “a dangerous mix of irritants and potentially toxic chemicals.”


NUTRACEUTICALS

FDA Extends Comment Period on NDI Draft Guidance.
On August 12, 2016, the FDA issued a Draft New Drug Ingredient (NDI) Guidance requiring dietary supplement companies to notify the Agency before beginning to market a dietary supplement that contains an NDI. Under that draft guidance, the FDA allotted a 60-day comment period for the industry and the public. However, FDA has granted recent requests to extend the comment period on the revised draft guidance. For instance, the Natural Products Association (NPA), formally requested a written extension of 30 days. The FDA has granted a longer extension until December 12, 2016.


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