



Organización Internacional del Café
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Communication from the National Coffee Association of USA, Inc. (NCA) announcing that it will serve as “U.S. Agent” for the purposes of the Bioterrorism Act

The Executive Director presents his compliments and, at the request of the National Coffee Association of USA, Inc (NCA), attaches a copy of a communication from the NCA announcing that it will provide a service to its United States and Foreign members permitting them to arrange to name it as their "United States agent" for the purposes of the forthcoming U.S. Bioterrorism Act.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Coffee Association to Serve as "U.S. Agent" For Members
For Purposes of Bioterrorism Act**

New York, NY, September 24, 2003 – To help implement new United States food security laws and avoid interruption of U.S. coffee commerce, the National Coffee Association of USA, Inc., (NCA) announced today that it will provide a service to its United States and Foreign members that permits members to arrange to name the Association as their "United States agent" when they register foreign facilities with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under new anti-bioterrorism regulations anticipated in October. Although legislation passed by the U.S. Congress last year subjects certain foreign and domestic food facilities to registration, a "United States agent" is only required for foreign food facilities.

Coffee companies, whether members or not, interested in receiving detailed information about the FDA food facility registration regulations and NCA's "United States agent" service should email NCA at info@ncausa.org. The Association will email the information to them as soon as the final regulations are published in October, NCA announced.

"The increased security of the U.S. and the well-being of the global coffee industry will depend on the smooth and efficient implementation of these new anticipated regulations," NCA President and CEO Robert F. Nelson remarked. "NCA's mission and desire is to assist that goal."

The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, passed to protect America's food supply following the 9 - 11 attacks, requires that facilities engaged in "manufacturing, processing, packing, or holding food for consumption in the United States" register with the FDA. Foreign facilities subject to the Act must also include the name and contact information of a "United States agent." Failure to comply will result in holding of all U.S. imports from that facility.

Foreign facilities subject to the Act are those facilities that manufacturer, process, pack, or hold food, but only if food from such facility is exported to the United States without further processing or packaging outside the United States.

NCA will act as members' U.S. agent "solely for the limited purpose pursuant to Section 305 of the Act, 'Registration of Food Facilities,'" Mr. Nelson noted. All members, foreign or domestic, will be required to sign an agreement with the Association in order to take advantage of this service.

Other sections of the Act refer to prior notice requirements for imports of foods into the U.S., maintenance and inspection of food records, administrative detention and other issues. Proposed Regulations were published for comment earlier this year.

The National Coffee Association of USA, Inc., established in 1911, is the leading trade organization for the coffee industry in the United States. Its members, who conduct nearly 90 percent of the business of the U.S. coffee market, include importers, roasters, and retailers, as well as growers, exporters and suppliers.

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