



CAFTA Facts

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CAFTA and Dietary Supplements

- The CAFTA-DR will not limit consumer access to dietary supplements in any way, nor will it change the way the federal government or U.S. states regulate dietary supplements.
- Chapter Six of the CAFTA-DR (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures – SPS), which some have claimed could limit access by American consumers to dietary supplements, does not create any substantive rights or obligations. It merely:
 - Says the seven governments do not intend the CAFTA-DR to change their existing SPS rights and obligations under the WTO.
 - Note: WTO rules, in effect since 1995, have had absolutely no impact on the regulation or availability of dietary supplements in the United States.
 - Establishes an inter-governmental committee to discuss SPS issues of mutual interest.
 - The SPS committee will not seek to harmonize national SPS regulations governing dietary supplements. In fact, Chapter Six does not require, recommend, or even mention harmonization.
 - The committee will simply work to assist the seven governments in carrying out their obligations under the WTO SPS Agreement.
- Contrary to assertions some have made, the CAFTA-DR will not require the United States to:
 - apply the recently adopted Codex Alimentarius *Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Supplements*. In fact, the agreement imposes no obligations regarding Codex standards or guidelines.
 - change the *Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994* (DSHEA), which regulates dietary supplements in the United States.
- The Codex *Guidelines* provide voluntary guidance to governments relating to the composition of vitamin and mineral supplements and criteria for establishing maximum amounts of vitamins and minerals per daily portion of supplement consumed.
- The *Guidelines* do NOT establish upper limits for vitamins and minerals in supplements.
- Nothing in the WTO SPS Agreement will require the United States to adopt the Codex *Guidelines*.