

## **7. Qatar - shelf life for cheese**

The United States and the European Union expressed concerns with the measure published by the Qatari Ministry of Public Health, which restricts the reconstitution of milk and establishes cheese shelf life parameters. The measure requires that 80% of a cheese product's shelf life remain at the time of importation. The US and the EU said this shelf-life requirement is so short that in practice it prohibits dairy products originating from countries not geographically close to Qatar from being viable purchase options for importers.

The regulation restricts the marketing of fluid milks made from reconstituted powdered milks, requires country of origin labelling, and requires certain white cheeses to be presented in low-fat form only and the obligatory addition of vitamins to milk. The US and the EU urged Qatar to notify the measure to the TBT committee and suspend its implementation.

Qatar said that the purpose of this regulation is to ensure product quality and protect consumers. Qatar added that the relevant measures apply equally to domestic and imported goods, and were adopted with WTO obligations in mind. Qatar said that it will convey comments to the relevant authorities.