

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: April 16, 2021

Report Number: IN2021-0052

Report Name: India Confirms Prunes Not Subject to the non-Genetically Modified cum Genetically-Modified-Free Status Certificate Requirement

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Food Processing Ingredients, Export Accomplishments - Border Facilitation, Dried Fruit, Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News, Policy and Program Announcements, FAIRS Subject Report, SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

Prepared By: Radha Mani, Agricultural Assistant and Mariano J. Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Approved By: Mariano Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Report Highlights:

FAS New Delhi (Post) secured confirmation from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India that prunes from plums (*Prunus domestica*) are a processed food product (dried fruit), and as such are not subject to the non-Genetically Modified (GM) cum GM-Free status certificate requirement. Industry's concerns for clarification necessitated post's outreach. U.S.-origin prune exports to India reached nearly \$4 million in 2020.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) website <http://www.fssai.gov.in>. The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), USDA and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of India has not officially endorsed this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Indian officials at the time of product entry. [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links if they do not open in Internet Explorer].

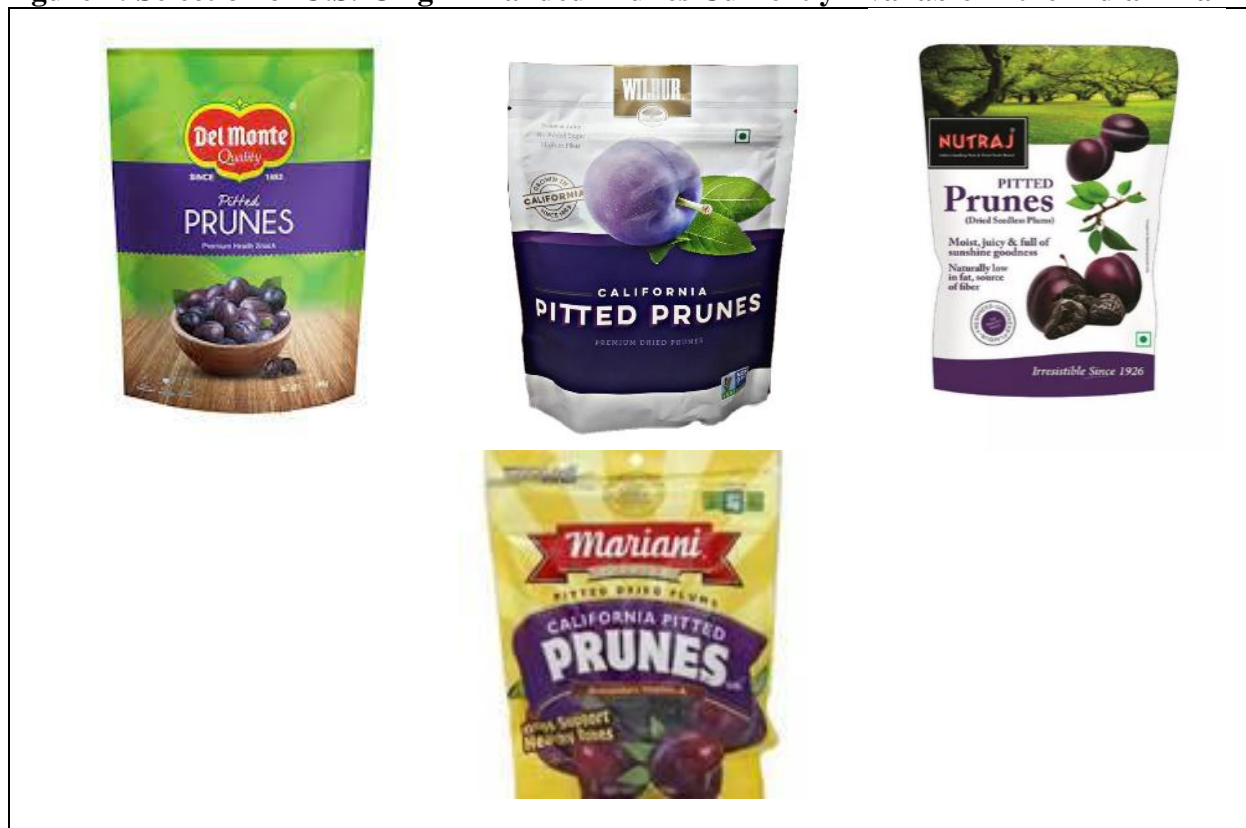
GENERAL INFORMATION:

On April 13, 2021, FAS New Delhi\Office of Agricultural Affairs secured confirmation from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) Director of Imports, Dr. Amit Sharma, that prunes from plums (*Prunus domestica*) are a processed food product (dried fruit). As such, prunes are not subject to the non-Genetically Modified (GM) cum GM-Free status certificate requirement. Industry's concerns for clarification prompted post's outreach.

FSSAI, in its Clarification dated October 12, 2020 (Appendix I), referencing the Order of August 21, 2020 (Appendix II), mentions that the requirement to obtain a non-GM cum GM-Free status certificate for all food import consignments containing any of 24 specific foods (including fruits, vegetables, and grains) does not apply to processed food products in general.

In calendar year 2020 (January-December), U.S. prune exports to India reached nearly \$4 million.

Figure 1: Selection of U.S.-Origin Branded Prunes Currently Available in the Indian Market



**APPENDIX I - FSSAI – ORDER, REQUIREMENT OF NON-GM CUM GM FREE CERTIFICATE
ACCOMPANIED WITH IMPORTED CONSIGNMENT REG. – CLARIFICATION, OCTOBER 12, 2020**

File No. 1-1764/FSSAI/Imports/2018 (Part - 1)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)
(Imports Division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110002

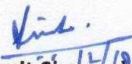
The 12th October, 2020

CLARIFICATION

Subject: Requirement of Non GM cum GM free certificate to accompany imported food consignments - reg

With respect to the order dated 21.08.2020 (copy attached) on the above subject it is clarified that the order is presently applicable only to food crops mentioned in annexure 1 of the order and not to processed food products in general. The order has been notified on 02.09.2020 for the comments from WTO- TBT member countries. Comments received from different member countries will be examined before the order comes into effect.

Encl: As above


(Dr. Amit Sharma)
Director (Imports)
Email- dramit.sharma@fssai.gov.in

**APPENDIX II - FSSAI – REQUIREMENT OF NON-GM CUM GM FREE CERTIFICATE
ACCOMPANIED WITH IMPORTED CONSIGNMENT REG., ORDER, AUGUST 21, 2020**

1-1764/FSSAI/Imports/2018(Part-1)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110 002

Dated, the 21st August, 2020


ORDER

Subject: Requirement of Non-GM cum GM free certificate accompanied with imported food consignment-reg.

Sub-regulation 12(2) of Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017 specifies that “the Food Authority may issue order or advisory or guideline as it deems fit, from time to time for ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of articles of food imported into India and such prohibitions and restrictions shall be informed to the customs immediately”.

2. In exercise of above said provision, to ensure that only Non GM food crops are imported into India, pending framing of regulations related to Genetically Engineered or Modified as envisaged in section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, it has been decided that every consignment of imported food products mentioned in Annexure - I shall be accompanied with a Non-GM origin cum GM free certificate as per format of Annexure-II, issued by Competent National Authority of the exporting country.

3. This order shall be effective from 1st January, 2021 and this issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Dr. Amit Sharma)
Director, Imports
FSSAI, HQ

Annexure 1

Sr. No.	Crops
1.	Alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i>)
2.	Apple (<i>Malus x Domestica</i>)
3.	Argentina Canola (<i>Brassica napus</i>)
4.	Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>)
5.	Chicory (<i>Cichorium intybus</i>)
6.	Cowpea (<i>Vigna unguiculate</i>)
7.	Egg Plant (Brinjal) <i>Solanum melanogoa</i>
8.	Flax seed <i>Linum usitatissimum L</i>
9.	Maize (<i>Zea mays</i>)
10.	Melon (<i>Cucumis melo</i>)
11.	Papaya (<i>Carica papaya</i>)
12.	Pineapple (<i>Ananas comosus</i>)
13.	Plum (<i>Prunus domestica</i>)
14.	Polish canola (<i>Brassica rapa</i>)
15.	Potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>)
16.	Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)
17.	Safflower <i>Carthamus tinctorius L</i>
18.	Soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>)
19.	Squash (<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>)
20.	Sugar beet (<i>Beta vulgaris</i>)
21.	Sugarcane (<i>Saccharum sp</i>)
22.	Sweet pepper (<i>Capsicum annum</i>)
23.	Tomato <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>
24.	Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)

Attachments:

No Attachments.