

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** September 21, 2021

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## **Report Name:** India's FSSAI Proposes New Regulations for Vegan Foods

**Country:** India

**Post:** New Delhi

**Report Category:** Agriculture in the News, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, FAIRS Subject Report, Exporter Guide, Agriculture in the Economy, Policy and Program Announcements, SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports, Agricultural Situation, Retail Foods, MISC-Commodity

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### **Report Highlights:**

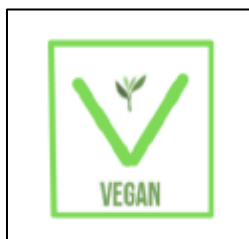
On September 8, 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published draft regulations for packaged vegan food products. The regulation, once implemented, will require food products marketed as vegan to display a vegan logo on the label to assist consumers with vegan product identification. World Trade Organization (WTO) members are invited to comment on the proposed draft amendment and the timeline to provide comments is 60 days from the date of notification on the WTO website.

**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 September 8, 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published Notification F. No. Std/TF-Vegan Foods/Notif./FSSAI for the proposed draft Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Regulations (2021) (see, Appendix I). The authority's draft regulations define vegan foods as being foods or food ingredients that have not made use of any ingredients, additives, and processing aids of animal origin. These include milk and milk products, fish, poultry, and meat, egg or egg products, honey or honeybee products, materials of insect origin (such as silk, dyes, chitin/chitosan, etc) or ingredients that are clarified using animal sourced products (e.g., bone char used in sugar bleaching), isinglass (obtained from the dried swim bladders of fish and used for clarifying beer). The draft regulations also cover the general requirements for packaged vegan food products including their compliance and labelling display.

The proposed FSSAI vegan foods logo is:



Wherein the 'green' color and the leaf depicts that the ingredient/product is of plant origin. The letter 'V' and or text 'VEGAN' identifies the product as being vegan.

FAS New Delhi recommends that interested stakeholders thoroughly read the draft regulations before providing comments on them. World Trade Organization (WTO) members are invited to comment on the proposed draft regulations; the timeline to provide comments is 60 days from the date of notification on the WTO website.

The full text of the draft regulations is accessible on the FSSAI's website located at:

[https://fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Draft\\_Notification\\_FSS\\_Vegan\\_Food\\_08\\_09\\_2021.pdf](https://fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Draft_Notification_FSS_Vegan_Food_08_09_2021.pdf)

Send comments to:

The Chief Executive Officer  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Food and Drug Administration Bhawan, Kotla Road  
New Delhi – 110 002  
Email: [spstbt.enqpt@fssai.gov.in](mailto:spstbt.enqpt@fssai.gov.in)

## APPENDIX I: DRAFT FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS (VEGAN FOODS) REGULATIONS (2021)

### FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

#### NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 6th September, 2021

**F. No. Std/TF-Vegan Foods/Notif./FSSAI.**—The following draft of Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Regulations, 2021, which the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) propose to make, with the previous approval of the Central Government in exercise of powers conferred by clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, (34 of 2006) is hereby published as required by the said sub-section (1) of section 92, for the information of persons likely to be affected thereby and notice is hereby given that the said draft regulations shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Official Gazette in which this notification is published are made available to the public.

Objections or suggestions, if any, may be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, FDA Bhavan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002 or sent on email at [regulation@fssai.gov.in](mailto:regulation@fssai.gov.in).

The objections or suggestions which may be received from any person with respect to said draft regulations, before the expiry of the period specified above, shall be considered by the Food Authority.

#### Draft Regulations

**1. Short Title and Commencement** - (1) These regulations may be called the Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Regulations, 2021.

**2. Definitions-** (1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Vegan Food" means those foods or food ingredients that have not made use of any ingredients, additives and processing aids of animal origin including milk and milk products, fish, poultry and meat, egg or egg products, honey or honey bee products, materials of insect origin like silk, dyes, chitin/chitosan etc or ingredients that are clarified using animal sourced products e.g., bone char used in sugar bleaching, isinglass in clarifying beer etc.

(2) All the other words and expressions used herein and not defined but defined in the Act, or rules or regulations made thereunder shall have the meanings assigned to the same in the Act, rules or regulations respectively.

**3. General Requirements-**

- (1) No person shall manufacture, pack, sell, offer for sale, market or otherwise distribute or import any food as vegan food unless they comply with the requirements laid down under these regulations.

- (2) The food products or ingredients to be called VEGAN, shall not have involved animal testing for evaluating the safety of the final product/ingredient; and, shall not contain any animal derived GMOs or products prepared using animal derived gene for manufacturing the ingredients or products.
- (3) Traceability shall be established up to the manufacturer level and shall include any other requirements prescribed by the Food Authority to maintain the vegan integrity of the foods or food ingredients or products thereof from time to time.
- (4) All vegan foods/ingredients shall comply with the relevant provisions, as applicable under the Act, Rules and regulations.

#### 4. Vegan food compliance

- (1) The Food Business Operator shall submit an application with all necessary details related to plant/machinery/premises to the Authority. Inspection and verification of the premises shall be done by concerned Food Safety Officer or Designated Officer.
- (2) Verification of the final product for compliance shall also be done by use of analytical tools (molecular/chemical/combination of both) available to ascertain absence of animal origin for endorsement of the vegan logo in the license.
- (3) The Food Authority may specify guidelines for endorsement of vegan logo and annual market surveillance for such products. The concerned registration or licensing authority shall carry out surveillance of the registered establishment at least once in a year.

#### 5. Labelling and display requirements-

- (1) All vegan foods shall comply with the packaging and labelling requirements specified under the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 in addition to the labelling requirements specified above.
- (2) The seller of vegan food either exclusively or as part of retail merchandise shall store and display such food in a manner distinguishable from non-vegan food.
- (3) Every package of vegan foods, after the endorsement as specified in clause 4 of these regulations, shall carry the logo as specified below:



The 'Green' colour and the leaf depicts that the ingredient/product is of plant origin. The letter 'V' identifies the product to be as 'Vegan'.

ARUN SINGHAL, Chief Executive Officer

[ADVT.-III/4/Exty./235/2021

#### Attachments:

No Attachments.