

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: March 15, 2023

Report Number: IN2023-0024

Report Name: India's DAHD Publishes Revised Integrated Veterinary Health Certificate for the Import of Milk and Milk Products

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Approved By: Mariano Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Report Highlights:

On March 3, 2023, India's Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying/Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) published on its website, a revised integrated veterinary health certificate (VHC), that incorporates the DAHD's sanitary requirements along with those of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) (national food safety authority) food safety requirements. These two Indian government agencies have now aligned their technical aspects, producing a revised integrated veterinary health certificate. The revised integrated VHC requires that the exporting country-of-origin certify milk and milk product consignments being exported to India specific information and attestations. While the effective date of implementation is immediate as of the publication of the revised integrated VHC, India in order to help facilitate trade, is allowing for a transition period of 60-days from the date of notification.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from India’s Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying/Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying’s (DAHD) website <https://dahd.nic.in/>. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, 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 that do not open in Microsoft Edge. Indian host sites will geo-block site access on a rolling basis].

GENERAL INFORMATION

On March 3, 2023, India’s Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying/ Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) published on its [website](#), a revised integrated veterinary health certificate (VHC), that incorporates the DAHD’s sanitary requirements along with those of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India’s (FSSAI) (national food safety authority) food safety requirements (see, Appendix I).

These two Indian government agencies have now aligned their technical aspects, producing a revised integrated veterinary health certificate. The revised integrated VHC is issued to assist clearing the confusion that various stakeholders (i.e., exporting countries and food importers) have encountered in attempting to meet India’s import requirements. The revised integrated VHC requires that the exporting country-of-origin certify milk and milk product consignments being exported to India’s specific information and attestations.

While the effective date of implementation is immediate as of the publication of the revised integrated VHC, India in order to help facilitate trade, is allowing for a transition period of 60-days from the date of notification. Until such time, the existing veterinary health certificate issued by the DAHD as of December 24, 2019, and or the revised integrated VHC will be acceptable for post-import clearance of consignments into India (see, Appendix II).

FAS New Delhi (Post) strongly recommends that interested stakeholders should familiarize themselves thoroughly with the revised integrated veterinary health certificate requirements. Special attention should be given to understanding the details of the revised integrated VHC’s additional requested information and attestations.

The full text of the DAHD notification, along with the integrated VHC is accessible on the DAHD website located at: <https://dahd.nic.in/sites/default/files/OM-3March2023forNotifyingNewNTMs-VHCforImportofMilkandMilkProducts.pdf>.

BACKGROUND:

In May 2020, the FSSAI mandated that all milk and milk products being imported into India must be accompanied with a VHC issued by the competent authority of the exporting country-of-origin. This

was then an already existing import requirement already implemented by India's DAHD's Animal Quarantine and Certification Service.

Prior to this date, on December 24, 2019, the DAHD revised its veterinary health certificate for the import of milk and milk products into India in compliance with domestic regulation at the time as stated in the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations (2011). Additionally, this revised VHC stipulated the requirement of the use non-animal-rennet enzymes in the manufacture of dairy products.

**APPENDIX 1: DAHD REVISED INTEGRATED VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE
FOR THE IMPORT OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS INTO INDIA**

File No.: L-11/1/2019-Trade (E-11542)

भारत सरकार

Government of India

मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली -110 001,
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001,
दिनांक / Dated the 3rd March, 2023.

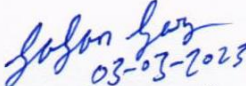
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Submission of filled in proforma for notifying new NTMs- Veterinary Health Certificate for import of Milk and Milk Products into India -reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Standard Operating Procedures for non-tariff measures issued by the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) and to enclose filled in proforma for issuance of Office Memorandum on Veterinary Health Certificate for import of Milk and Milk Products into India.

2. The comments, if any may please be forwarded to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of issuance of this letter. In absence of receipt of any comments, the said NTM may be issued for implementation.
3. This issues with approval of the competent authority.

Enclosures: As above.


03-03-2023

(डॉ गगन गर्ग)

(Dr. Gagan Garg)

उप-आयुक्त (व्यापार)

Deputy Commissioner (Trade)

Email: gagan.garg@nic.in

Proforma for submission of new NTMs

Note: This proforma to be appended with each NTM identified for customs enforcement individually.

Name of issuing agency:		MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING)
NTM classification per UNCTAD Standard:		Chapter A on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
Submitted date to Director (Customs)/ NCTF:		3 rd March, 2023
Sl. No.	Questions	Answers by PGAs
1	<p>Please give (or append) the text of the measure. When is it to enter into force?</p> <p>Please note enforcement of the NTM shall apply only to Bills of Entry filed on the date indicated or subsequent period.</p>	<p>The draft Office Memorandum has been appended.</p> <p>Bills of Entry filed after date of issuance of Office Memorandum.</p> <p>However, considering the "Ease of Doing Business", the revised integrated Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) will be into force with immediate effect, however, completely in operation after transition time of 60 days i.e. extant Veterinary Health Certificate by DAHD issued on dated 24th December, 2019 or integrated VHC from exporting country with consignments will be considered for post-import clearance during migration time of 60 days.</p>
2	Please identify the NTM category of the measure (Refer Annexure II)	Chapter A on sanitary and phytosanitary measures
3	Please specify as precisely as possible what product or category of products are concerned, using the HS system.	Milk and Milk products as included under different chapters for human consumption as food in Indian import policy.
4	What is the legal nature of the measure? (regulation, executive order etc.)?	Executive Order (Office Memorandum)
5	Is the information contained in the NTM confidential in nature.	No

	barring its publication prior entry into force?	
6	Is the measure accessible to users? How? Is it intended to be available online? If yes, please provide the specific web address.	Regulation will be published on the Departmental website; http://dahd.nic.in/trade
7	What is the legal compliance required of traders (importers or exporters) to be in compliance with the measure?	Compliance by the importers
8	How is compliance with the measure verified? Please explain the entire procedure, including each step?	Veterinary Health Certificate for import of Milk and Milk Product into India has to be certified by the exporting country along with the consignments to be exported into India. Same has to be uploaded on Custom's IceGate by the importers while filing Bill of Entry. Regional Officer / Quarantine Officer, Animal Quarantine and Certification Services will verify the same for compliance.
9	Is there a risk management at the border, which allows your agency to selectively interdict incoming/ outgoing cargo?	Yes.
10	Is a breach by the trader under the appended NTM remediable? <i>For e.g.:</i> <i>If a good is not labelled, can labelling be allowed pre-clearance?</i> <i>If a registration with some authority was required to be obtained and it is not available at the time of import, could Customs allow the goods to be warehoused pending such registration?</i>	In case of non-compliance, the consignment shall be deported or destroyed.
11	How long, on an average, is it proposed to take to be granted a permit (if applicable)? Is there a transparent, publicly available timeline?	Not applicable.

File No. L-11/1/2019-Trade (E-11542)
भारत सरकार
Government of India
मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली- 110 001,
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001,
दिनांक / Dated the March, 2023.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Veterinary Health Certificate for import of Milk and Milk Products into India – regarding.

The extant Veterinary Health Certificate for import of Milk and Milk Product into India was made in force vide this Department's O.M. No. L-110109(4)/15/2019-Trade (E-14537), dated 24th December, 2019. Further, vide this Department's O.M. No. L-110102(1)/1/2018-Trade (E-7526), dated 10th August, 2020, it was clarified that the said requirement is applicable for import of milk and milk products into India as included under different chapters for human consumption as food in Indian import policy (whether Sanitary Import Permit is applicable or not).

2. Vide Order No. 1829/Health Certificate/FSSAI/Imports-2021, dated 3rd August, 2022, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) also notified its requirements of "Health Certificate" related to food safety. The requirement of "health certificate" by FSSAI has created much confusion among stakeholders including exporting countries as well as food importers, as this Department is regulating import of livestock products including food of animal origin for human consumption under the Live-stock Importation Act, 1898 since inception. Forum of Indian Food Importers also requested to this Department to align the technical aspects between the two Government of India agencies (DAHD and FSSAI).

3. In order to facilitate trade, the integrated Veterinary Health Certificate for import of Milk and Milk Product into India, incorporating DAHD's sanitary requirements and FSSAI's food safety requirements is enclosed herewith which has to be certified by the exporting country along with the consignments to be exported into India.

4. The revised integrated Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) will be into force with immediate effect. However, considering the "Ease of Doing Business", it will be completely in operation after transition time of 60 days i.e. extant Veterinary Health Certificate by DAHD issued on dated 24th December, 2019 or integrated VHC from exporting country with consignments will be considered for post-import clearance into India during migration time of 60 days.

Contd....

5. Any proposal of mutual agreement on the clause (s) related to DAHD's sanitary requirements or FSSAI's food safety requirements shall only be enrouted though this Department to avoid ambiguity in future.

6. This has the approval of the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

(डॉ गगन गर्ग)
(Dr. Gagan Garg)
उप-आयुक्त (व्यापार)
Deputy Commissioner (Trade)
Email: gagan.garg@nic.in

VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR IMPORT¹ OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS INTO INDIA

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Veterinary Health certificate No: Date:	2. Competent Authority 2.1 Ministry: 2.2 Department: 2.3 Contact Details and Email:										
3. Invoice No. and Date:	4. Quantity:										
5. Consignor / exporter Name: Address: Tel. no. and Email:											
6. Consignee /importer: Name: Address: Tel. no. and Email:											
7. Country of origin:	ISO Code:										
8. Place of loading:											
9. Country of Destination:	ISO Code:										
10. Declared Port of Entry ²											
11. Mode of Transport:											
12. Identification of the product as described below: (multiple lines may be used for multiple products)											
a)	Description of the food along with HS code: Intended purpose:										
b)	Name and address of Manufacturer / Establishment Approval number/s of establishment /s (Number /Date / Validity) along with Name and address of the Registration / Accreditation Authority										
c)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Name of the product</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Lot no. / Batch no.</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Type of packaging</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Number of packages</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Net Weight</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of the product	Lot no. / Batch no.	Type of packaging	Number of packages	Net Weight					
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d)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Date of Manufacture or Packaging</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Best before (if applicable)</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Date of Expiry</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date of Manufacture or Packaging	Best before (if applicable)	Date of Expiry							
Date of Manufacture or Packaging	Best before (if applicable)	Date of Expiry									

¹ Import of livestock products into India is subjected to fulfillment of the Live-stock Importation Act, 1898 and the rules / regulations thereunder as notified time to time.

² Port of Entry as notified by Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India considering applicability of Sanitary Import Permit (SIP) or not, as the case may be.

II. CERTIFICATION*

The undersigned Official Veterinarian certifies that the product(s) described above satisfies the following requirement:

1. General Conditions:

- a) The source animals have never been fed with feeds produced from meat or bone meal including internal organs, blood meal and tissues of ruminant origin and porcine origin materials except milk and milk products.
- b) The milk product has not been manufactured using animal rennet.

2. Sanitary Conditions:

- a) The milk has been processed (including destruction of FMDV³) to make it fit for human consumption as recommended by World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).
- b) The milk has been processed to a temperature, which ensures destruction of organisms causing Tuberculosis, Listeriosis, Para tuberculosis, Q fever and Brucellosis.
- c) The animals from which the milk has been derived were not exposed to Bovine Growth Hormones (BGH) / Bovine Somatotropin Hormones (BST).
- d) The Source animals were not subjected to estrogenic treatment in last 90 days.
- e) Milk / milk products do not contain preformed Bacterial toxins such as those produced by Bacteria belonging to *Staph. aureus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Clostr. perfringens* and *Clostr. botulinum*.

3. Food Safety Conditions⁴:

The attestation from authorized official is annexed.

Official stamp:

Signature_____

Official Veterinarian	
Name:	Designation:
Address and Email:	
Date:	

³As recommended under the Article 8.8.25 of Terrestrial Animal Health Code by WOAHA

⁴As notified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

*This certificate is valid for 90 days from the date of issue.

***3. Attestation for Food Safety conditions**:**

The undersigned Official Veterinarian or Authorised Official certifies that the product(s) described above satisfies the following requirement:

- a) Were manufactured at (an) establishment (s) that has / have been approved by, or otherwise determined to be in good regulatory standing with the Competent Authority in the exporting country.
- b) Does not contain drug/ antibiotics / mycotoxins / pesticides/ heavy metal residues etc., above the limits prescribed by the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011.
- c) Conforms to the microbiological requirements specified in Appendix 'B' of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.
- d) Complies with the standards of Milk and Milk products as specified under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.
- e) Contains only those food additives as specified in Appendix 'A' of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 within the limits specified.
- f) Prepared, packed, held and transported prior to export under good hygienic conditions and an effective food safety control system, implemented within the context of HACCP systems where appropriate and in accordance with the requirements specified in Schedule 4, as applicable, of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 (India) and such other guidelines as specified from time to time under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- g) Regular inspection/ monitoring of checks in according with FSS Act, 2006, rules and regulations made thereunder and as per the criteria specified by FSSAI.
- h) Conditions for transport / storage: _____.
- i) Temperature required during storage and transportation: _____.

Official stamp:

Signature _____

Official Veterinarian or Authorised Official	
Name:	Designation:
Address and Email:	
Date:	

** Where it is not applicable, strikethrough the requirement.

*This certificate is valid for 90 days from the date of issue.

Post Import Requirements:

1. On arrival in India, the consignment and the documents shall be examined by the Regional Officer/ Quarantine Officer, Animal Quarantine and Certification Services and / or Authorized Officer designated by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
2. Samples may be taken from the milk / milk products for examination, if applicable.
3. In case the documents do not conform to the requirements and the product is not as per protocol, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and / or Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, respectively, will take appropriate action at the cost of importing agency.

APPENDIX II: DAHD VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE OF DECEMBER 24, 2019

File No: L-110109(4)/15/2019-Trade (E-14537)
Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 24th December, 2019.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Revised Veterinary Certificate for Import of Milk and Milk Products into India- regarding.

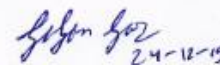
The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare states use of non-animal rennet type enzymes for making variety of dairy products.

2. To bring the Veterinary Certificate for Import of Milk and Milk Products into India in conformity with domestic regulations as stated in the FSSAI Regulations, 2011, the necessary amendment has been made in the Veterinary Certificate.

3. A copy of said Veterinary Certificate is enclosed herewith for kind information and further necessary actions, if any.

4. This issues with approval of the competent authority.

Enclosures: As above.



(Dr. Gagan Garg)

Assistant Commissioner (Trade)

Email: gagan.garg@nic.in

To

The Department of Commerce,
[Kind Attention: Shri Puru Gupta, Deputy Secretary]
Udyog Bhawan,
New Delhi – 110 001.
e-mail: d2tpd-doc[at]nic[dot]in

Copy for information to:

- I. Chairperson, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002. Email: chairperson@fssai.gov.in
- II. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, AHD
- III. PPS to the JS (C&DD) / JS (Trade).

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR IMPORT OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS INTO INDIA

I. GERNAL INFORMATION FOR IMPORTATION

1. Consignor (name and address in full)	2. Health certificate No: _____ Date: _____
3. Consignee (name and address in full)	4. Country of origin
5. Competent Authority 5.1 Ministry: 5.2 Department	6. Place of loading:
7. Identification of the product: Type of Product : Details of product : Number of packages : Identification marks : Quantity :	8. Name and Address of the Registration/Accreditation authority
9. Mode of Transport :	10. Destination (name and address in full) :

II. General Conditions:

- a) The source animals have never been fed with feeds produced from internal organs, blood meal and tissues of ruminant origin.
- b) The milk product has not been manufactured using animal rennet.

III. Sanitary information

The undersigned official veterinarian certifies that the product described above satisfies the following requirement:-

1. The milk has been processed to make it fit for human consumption.
2. The milk had been processed to a temperature, which ensures destruction of organisms causing Tuberculosis, Listeriosis, Para tuberculosis, Q fever and Brucellosis.
3. The animals from which the milk has been derived were not exposed to Bovine Growth Hormones (BGH)/ Bovine Somatotropin Hormones (BST).
4. The Source animals were not subjected to estrogenic treatment in last 90 days.

5. The milk does not contain drug/ pesticides/ heavy metal residues above the limits prescribed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
6. Milk/milk products do not contain preformed bacterial toxins such as those produced by bacteria belonging to Staph. aureus, Bacillus cereus, Clost. perfringes and Clost. botulinum and the level of mycotoxins should not be above the limits prescribed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Official stamp:

Signature _____
Name and address of Veterinarian

Issued at _____ on

POST IMPORT REQUIREMENTS:

1. On arrival in India, the consignment and the documents shall be examined by the Regional Officer/ Quarantine Officer.
2. Samples shall be taken from the milk / milk products for examination.
3. In case the documents do not conform to the requirements and the product is not as per protocol, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India will take appropriate action at the cost of importing agency.

Attachments:

No Attachments.