

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: September 07, 2022

Report Number: IN2022-0073

Report Name: India's FSSAI Issues Clarification for Microbial Testing Requirements for Imported Food Products

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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

Approved By: Ronald Verdonk, Agricultural Minister Counselor

Report Highlights:

On August 16, 2022, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued Clarification No. 1831/Misc./FSSAI/Imports/2022 pertaining to microbial testing requirements for imported food products. The FSSAI clarifies that only two parts of a food sample are required to be drawn during sampling by the authorized officer/representative as per the provisions of Regulation 9 of the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations (2017).

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 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 Internet Explorer. Indian host sites will geo-block site access on a rolling basis].

GENERAL INFORMATION

On August 16, 2022, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued **Clarification No. 1831/Misc./FSSAI/Imports/2022** pertaining to microbial testing requirements for imported food products (see, Annex I). The FSSAI indicates that during sampling, only two parts of a food sample are required to be drawn by the authorized officer/representative. Sampling and analysis should be carried out as per the provisions of Regulation (9) and (10) respectively of the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations (2017). The current FSSAI notification clarifies FSSAI **Order No. 1831/Misc./FSSAI/Imports/2022** issued on August 2, 2022 (see, Annex II).

Background: FSSAI **Order No. 1831/Misc./FSSAI/Imports/2022**, states that imported food products which require testing of microbial parameters should be sampled and sealed by the authorized officer/representative in aseptic (uncontaminated) conditions only as per the sampling guidelines for microbial analysis. The order further instructs the primary/referral laboratories to ensure that samples are received in aseptic (uncontaminated) conditions or else must be returned to the concerned authorized officer/representative.

The August 2, 2022, FSSAI **Order No. 1831/Misc./FSSAI/Imports/2022** and **Clarification No. 1831/Misc./FSSAI/Imports/2022** are accessible on the FSSAI website located at:

- https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2022/08/62fe0bcc5afdbClarification_Sample_18_08_2022.pdf
- https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2022/08/62ea03d5c2459Order_Import_Sample_03_08_2022.pdf

ANNEX I: FSSAI NOTIFICATION (AUGUST 16, 2022) - SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS OF IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS WITH MICROBIAL TESTING REQUIREMENTS

No.1831/Misc/FSSAI/Imports/2022
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
(Trade and International Cooperation Division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110002


Dated, the 16th August, 2022

CLARIFICATION

Subject: Sampling and analysis of imported food articles with microbial testing requirements- reg.

With respect to the order dated 02.08.2022 (copy attached) it is clarified that only two parts of food sample is required to be drawn during sampling by the Authorised Officer/representative as per the provisions of Regulation 9 of FSS(Import) Regulations, 2017. Also analysis of the imported sample shall also be carried out only as per the provisions of Regulation 10 of FSS(Import) Regulations, 2017.

2. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.


(Dr Amit Sharma)
Director (T&IC), FSSAI-HQ

ANNEX II: FSSAI NOTIFICATION (AUGUST 2, 2022) - SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS OF IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS WITH MICROBIAL TESTING REQUIREMENTS

No.1831/Misc/FSSAI/Imports/2022
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
(Trade and International Cooperation Division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110002


Dated, the 02nd August, 2022

ORDER

Subject: Sampling and analysis of imported food articles with microbial testing requirements- reg.

There are number of imported food articles in which testing of microbial parameters is required and it is necessary to retain the character of the article of food while sampling. Hence it has been decided that for the imported food articles which require microbial parameter testing shall be sampled and sealed by the Authorised Officer or its representative in aseptic conditions only as per the sampling guidelines for microbiological analysis.

2. Also the labs (primary/referral) carrying out the analysis of the imported food articles are hereby directed to ensure that these samples are received in aseptic conditions only, else the sample shall be returned to the concerned Authorised Officer. Labs (primary/referral) shall not carry out analysis on incomplete parameters i.e. without microbial parameters in any such imported food article.


(Dr Amit Sharma)
Director (T&IC), FSSAI-HQ

Attachments:

No Attachments.