

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Sri Lanka Enacts New Regulation on Genetically Engineered Food Imports

Country: Sri Lanka

Post: Colombo

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka's (Sri Lanka) Ministry of Health recently amended the Food (Control of Import, Labeling, and Sale of Genetically Modified Foods) Regulations (2006). The Sri Lankan government notified the new regulations (dated June 12, 2023) in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – Extraordinary (official gazette) on June 23, 2023. As per the new regulation, food which contains or has genetically modified organisms (i.e., genetically engineered) or materials less than 0.9 percent, exempt from taking prior approval of the Chief Food Authority when importing and labeling requirement.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Sri Lanka Department of Government Printing website <http://documents.gov.lk/en/exgazette.php>. The U.S. Embassy in Colombo – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has not officially endorsed this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Sri Lankan officials at the time of product entry. [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links that do not open in Microsoft Edge].

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka's (Sri Lanka) Ministry of Health recently amended the **Food (Control of Import, Labeling and Sale of Genetically Modified Foods) Regulations (2006) - Amendment** (see, Appendix I). As per the new regulation, food which contains or has genetically modified organisms (i.e., genetically engineered) or materials less than 0.9 percent, are now exempt from taking prior approval of the Chief Food Authority when importing and labeling requirements. The Sri Lankan government notified the new regulations (dated June 12, 2023) in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – Extraordinary (official gazette) as published on June 23, 2023.

Background:

Threshold Level of Genetically Engineered (GE) Content - The Current 2006 Regulation: The existing [Food \(Control of Import, Labeling, and Sale of Genetically Modified Foods\) Regulations \(2006\)](#) requires that the import of food and agricultural products with a GE content higher than 0.5 percent necessitates prior approval to import from the Food Control Administration of Sri Lanka, as well as labeling of the GE content in the packaging.

Threshold Level of GE Content - The Amendment of 2006 Regulation: The Sri Lankan Ministry of Health notified on June 23, 2023, the [Food \(Control of Import, Labeling, and Sale of Genetically Modified Foods\) Regulations \(2006\) - Amendment](#), requiring food which contains or has genetically modified organisms (i.e., genetically engineered) or materials less than 0.9 percent, are exempted from taking prior approval when importing and mandatory labeling of 'genetically modified' in conjunction with the name of that food or ingredients used in the preparation of food.¹

Impact of the New Regulation on U.S. Trade with Sri Lanka: The change in GE acceptance threshold level from 0.5 percent to 0.9 percent will facilitate exports of U.S.-origin non-GE soybean and non-GE corn (maize) or any other agricultural or food product, as they can now be imported without prior approval from the Chief Food Authority and mandatory labeling.

¹ Provided that the presence of such genetically modified organisms (i.e., genetically engineered) or materials are considered technically unavoidable, and the organisms or materials have been subjected to a scientific risk assessment and considered to be safe.

APPENDIX I. Food (Control of Import, Labeling and Sale of Genetically Modified Foods) Regulations (2006) - Amendment



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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

L. D. B - 11/1980 (40).

FOOD ACT, No. 26 OF 1980

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Health in consultation with the Food Advisory Committee under Section 32 of the Food Act, No. 26 of 1980.

Minister of Health.

Colombo,
12th June, 2023.

Regulations

The Food (Control of Import, Labelling and Sale of Genetically Modified Foods) Regulations 2006, published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1456/22 of August 03, 2006 is hereby amended by the repeal of regulation 13 thereof and substitution therefor of the following:-

“13. Food which contains or has genetically modified organisms or materials less than nought decimal nine per centum (0.9%), are exempted from the application of the provisions of these regulations:

Provided that the presence of such genetically modified organisms or materials are considered technically unavoidable and the organisms or materials have been subjected to a scientific risk assessment and considered to be safe.”

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Attachments:

No Attachments.