

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India

Post: New Delhi

Clarifications on Labeling of Imported Food Packages

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

FAIRS Subject Report

Fresh Fruit

Retail Foods

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Report Highlights:

This report summarizes the recent clarifications on labeling related to imported food packages.

Executive Summary:

The Government of India has clarified certain labeling requirements for imported food packages. These include: (a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Department of Legal Metrology regulations are to be amended by December 10th to allow the use of a sticker for the maximum retail price on imported retail packaged foods; (b) both the Department of Legal Metrology and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will defer to the Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) regulations to define wholesale versus retail packaging; and (c) boxes (cartons) of fresh fruit may indicate fruit count rather than net weight.

General Information:

The Department of Legal Metrology has clarified certain labeling requirements for imported food packages and these are highlighted below.

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Department of Legal Metrology, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution will amend regulations by December 10th to allow maximum retail price to be legally affixed to imported retail packaged foods with a sticker.
- Both the Department of Legal Metrology and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will defer to FSSAI's regulations to define wholesale versus retail packaging in accordance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. A notification to this effect shall be issued by FSSAI to the authorized officers at the port of entry.
- Boxes (cartons) of fresh fruit may indicate fruit count rather than net weight. However, a combination of both will NOT be acceptable.