

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary - Public

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India

Post: New Delhi

Comments Invited-Revised Standards For Fruits and Vegetable Products

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Exporter Guide

FAIRS Subject Report

Fresh Fruit

Vegetables

Food Processing Ingredients

Beverages

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Report Highlights:

India has invited World Trade Organization (WTO) members to provide comments on its draft amendments relating to standards for squashes, crushes, fruit syrups, fruit *sharbats* (concentrated drink), cordial and barley water. The comment period for trading partners expires 60 days from the date of notification listed on the WTO website.

General Information:

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India's (FSSAI) website <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>. The Office of Agricultural Affairs, USDA and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity.

On March 19, 2019, FSSAI published a Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2019 containing proposed changes to its existing standards for fruit and vegetable products.

The amendments relate to the following beverage categories under the food product standards:

- Squashes, Crushes, Cordial and Barley water (sub-regulation - 2.3.21)
- Sharbats (concentrated drink prepared from fruits or flower petals) and Synthetic syrup (sub-regulation – 2.3.24)

Comments, within 60 days from the date of notification on the WTO website, should be sent to: spstbt.enqpt@fssai.gov.in

Details of Notification:

- Date of Publication on FSSAI website: March 19, 2019
- Final date for comments from WTO members: 60 days from the date notified on the WTO website (TBD)

Agency in Charge: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI.

Products affected: Squashes, crushes, fruit syrups, fruit sharbats, cordial and barley water.

The full text of the Regulation is pasted below and is also available on FSSAI's website: <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 12th March, 2019

F. No. Stds/SP(Water & Beverages)/Notification(6) FSSAI-2018.—The following draft of certain regulations, further to amend the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, which the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India proposes to make with previous approval of the Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (e) of sub-section (2) of section 92 read with sections 16 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 of the said Act for the information of all 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 the period of thirty 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 Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi- 110002 or sent on email at regulation@fssai.gov.in.

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

Draft Regulations

1. (1) These regulations may be called the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2019.
- (2) They shall come into force on the date of their final publication in the official Gazette.

2. In the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, in Regulation 2.3. relating to “FRUIT & VEGETABLE PRODUCTS”,
- a) The sub-regulation 2.3.21 relating to “Squashes, Crushes, Fruit Syrups/Fruit Sharbats and Barley Water” shall be substituted by the following namely:-

“2.3.21 Squashes, Crushes, Cordial and Barley Water:

1. Squashes and Crushes means the product prepared from unfermented but fermentable fruit juice/puree or concentrate clear or cloudy, obtained from any suitable fruit or several fruits by blending it with nutritive sweeteners, water and with or without salt, aromatic herbs, peel oil and any other ingredients suitable to the products.
2. Cordial means a clear product free from any cellular matter, obtained by blending unfermented but fermentable clarified fruit juice with nutritive sweeteners & water with or without salt and peel oil and any other ingredients suitable to the products.
3. Barley water means the product prepared from unfermented but fermentable fruit juice by blending it with nutritive sweeteners, water with or without salt and peel oil and barley starch not less than 0.25 percent and any other ingredient suitable to the product.
4. The product may contain food additives permitted in these regulations including Appendix A. The product shall conform to the microbiological requirements given in Appendix B.

The product shall comply with the following requirements:—

	<i>Name of the products</i>	<i>Min (%) of fruit juice/ puree in the final product</i>	<i>Total Soluble Solids Min (%)</i>	<i>Acidity expressed as Citric Acid Max (%)</i>
(1)	Squash	25	40	3.5
(2)	Crush	25	55	3.5
(3)	Cordial	25	30	3.5
(4)	Barley Water	25	30	2.5

5. The container shall be well filled with the product and shall occupy not less than 90.0 percent of the water capacity of the container, when packed in the rigid containers. The water capacity of the container is the volume of distilled water at 20°C which the sealed container is capable of holding when completely filled.”;

- b) The sub-regulation 2.3.24 relating to “Synthetic Syrup or Sharbat” shall be substituted by the following namely:

“2.3.24 Sharbat and Synthetic syrup

1. Sharbat shall contain minimum 25 percent of juice or extract of fruit or vegetable or nut or herb or flower or spice, alone or in combination.

It shall be free from burnt or objectionable taints, flavours, artificial sweetening agents, extraneous matter and crystallization. Sharbat shall also meet the following requirement:

Sr. No.	Parameter	Permissible limits
1.	Acidity as citric acid Max (%)	0.05 to 0.15
2.	Specific Gravity	1.3 to 1.5
3.	Total Soluble Solids, Percent by mass	More than 30.0
4.	pH	Less than 4.5

2. Synthetic Syrup shall be obtained by blending syrup made from sugar, dextrose or liquid glucose.

It shall be free from burnt or objectionable taints, flavours, artificial sweetening agents, extraneous matter and crystallization. Synthetic Syrup shall also meet the following requirement:

Sr. No.	Parameter	Permissible limits
1.	Acidity as citric acid Max (%)	0.1 to 0.3
2.	Specific Gravity	1.0 to 1.5
3.	Total Soluble Solids, Percent by mass,	More than 30.0
4.	pH	Less than 4.5".

PAWAN AGRAWAL, Chief Executive Officer

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