

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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FSSAI notifies Microbiological Standards for Fruits and Vegetables

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Exporter Guide

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and
Standards - Narrative

Fresh Deciduous Fruit

Fresh Fruit

Food Processing Ingredients

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Report Highlights:

The Government of India's Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) fourth amendment regulations, 2018, with revised microbiological standards for fruits and vegetables and their products. The said notification will come in force on immediate basis and Food Business Operators (FBOs) will need to comply with all the provisions of the regulations by January 1, 2019.

General Information:

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

On March 21, 2018, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published the microbiological standards for fruits and vegetables and their products. The regulations will come in force on the date of publication of the official gazette and FBOs shall comply with all the provisions of the regulation by January 1, 2019.

The regulation published on the website of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, also defines the fruits and vegetable and their products:

- a). Fresh: The whole fruits and vegetables that are sold fresh,
- b). Cut or minimally processed and packaged including juices: Fruits and vegetables which are washed or sanitized or peeled or cut up and made in to juice and packed.
- c). Fermented or pickled or acidified or with preservatives: Fruits and vegetables including their products which are preserved using living ferments such as yeast, bacterium, mold, enzyme or in brine to produce lactic acid or marinating and storing it in an acid solution, usually vinegar (acetic acid), salt and sugar and edible vegetable oil.
- d). Pasteurized Juices: Fruit and vegetable juices that are subjected to pasteurization to destroy or inactivate harmful microorganisms
- e). Carbonated fruit beverages (and fruit drinks): Any beverage or drink which is prepared from fruit juice and water, or carbonated water and containing sugar, dextrose, invert sugar or liquid glucose either in single or in combination which may contain peel oil and fruit essences. It may also contain any other ingredients appropriate to the products.
- f). Frozen: Fruits and vegetables including their products which are subjected to a freezing process and maintained at temperature of -18°C .
- g). Dehydrated or dried: Fruits and vegetables including their products which are preserved by removing most of their water content following an appropriate dehydrating process.
- h). Thermally processed (other than pasteurization at less than 100°C): Fruits and vegetables including their products which are processed by heat in an appropriate manner before or after being sealed in a container so as to prevent spoilage.
- i). Retort processed: Fruits and vegetables including their products which are canned or in flexible packaging, processed by retorting.

The press note and cover page of the FSSAI notification are pasted below and the attachment is available on FSSAI's website www.fssai.gov.in/.

PRESS NOTE

Revised Microbiological Standards for Fruits and Vegetables and their products

FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2018 specifying revised microbiological standards for fruits and vegetables and their products.

In the Principal Regulations, microbiological requirements for fruits and vegetables products were specified under Table 4 of Appendix B, wherein, no separate 'Hygiene' & 'Safety' criteria, as well as no sampling plans and reference test methods were specified. This issue has been adequately addressed through the amendment regulations as under:

1. Separate "Process Hygiene" and "Food Safety" Criteria are specified based on general microbial count and specific microbial (hazardous microorganisms) count.
2. Microbiological specifications for 9 fruit and vegetable products categories including Fresh, Processed, Preserved, Dried and Frozen products etc. have been specified.
3. Sampling plan and guidelines as well as reference test methods have been specified.

The above regulations have come into force from the date of their publication in the official gazette and the Food Business Operators shall comply with all the provisions of these regulations by 1st January, 2019.

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

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 21st March, 2018

F. No.1-110(3)/SP (Biological Hazards)/FSSAI/2010.—Whereas the draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2016, were published as required under sub-section (1) of section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006), vide notification of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India number F. No.1-110(3)/SP (Biological Hazards)/FSSAI/2010, dated the 10th October, 2016, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, inviting objections and suggestions from the persons likely to be affected thereby, before the expiry of the period of thirty days from the date on which the copies of the Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

And whereas copies of the said Gazette were made available to the public on the 19th October, 2017;

And whereas objections and suggestions received in respect of the said draft regulations have been considered by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (e) of sub-section (2) of section 92 of the said Act, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India hereby makes the following regulations further to amend the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, namely:-

Regulations

1. Short title and commencement-(1) These regulations may be called the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2018.
(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette and Food Business Operator shall comply with all the provisions of these regulations by 1st January, 2019.
2. In the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, in APPENDIX B, for TABLE 4, the following tables shall be substituted namely:-