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POLICY

Voluntary - Public

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India

Post: New Delhi

Rectifiable Labeling List for Food Imports Gets Expanded

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety
Exporter Guide
FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Government of India's (GOI) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has increased the allowable rectifiable labeling list for imported food products.

General Information:

On May 23, 2018, FSSAI, in order to facilitate trade as well as ensure food safety, published a notification on the additional labeling requirements that can be rectified at custom-bonded warehouses before visual inspection or re-inspection by authorized officers. The labels can be rectified by affixing a single non-detachable sticker next to the principal display panel without altering or masking the original label information in any manner. Currently, the allowable list of rectifiable labeling deficiencies include name and address of the importer; vegetarian/non-vegetarian logo; FSSAI logo and license number; and category or sub-category along with the generic name, nature and composition for proprietary food. With this new notification, the additional labeling deficiencies for imported food products that can be rectified includes the name and complete address of the manufacturer and or packer; lot/code/batch identification; date of manufacture or packing; and declarations regarding food additives.

The FSSAI notification explains that the missing information can be verified from relevant documents like invoices, ingredient list, certificate of analysis, bill of entry, etc., and by a certification from the importer on the authenticity of information.

The entire text of the notification is pasted below and is also available on FSSAI's website www.fssai.gov.in

No. 1-1570/FSSAI/Imports/2015
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India
FDA Bhavan, New Delhi- 02

Dated: 22 May, 2018

Sub: Rectifiable labeling information for imported food consignments –reg.

With a view to facilitate ease of trade while ensuring the safety of food imported into India, it has been decided that in addition to the labeling deficiencies for which a special dispensation for rectification has been provided under Reg 6(4) of FSS (Import) Regulations, 2017, the following labeling deficiencies in respect of imported food consignments may also be allowed to be rectified at Customs bound warehouses before visual inspection or re-inspection by the Authorised Officer or his representative by affixing a single non detachable sticker or by any other non-detachable method next to the principal display panel without altering or masking the original label information in any manner:-

(1) Name and complete address of the manufacturer and/or packer-

- a) If only the names of the manufacturers and/or packers and not their complete addresses are given in the labels, then their addresses may be verified from other relevant documents like invoices, ingredient lists, certificates of analysis, Bills of Entry, etc. and rectification may be allowed after taking undertaking from importer on FICS or e-Sanchit stating that the contents of the said documents are genuine and true.
- b) In case the phrase “Distributed by/Shipped by/Exported by/Packed by” is used on the label instead of the phrase “Manufactured by”, rectification may be allowed after taking an undertaking from the importer on FICS or e-Sanchit stating that the manufacturer is the same as the Distributor or Shipper or Exporter or Packer.

(2) Lot/Code/Batch identification-

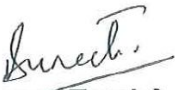
- a) In case the “Lot/Code/Batch” is not specified but a number is printed on the label, rectification may be allowed after taking an undertaking from importer on FICS or e-Sanchit stating that the number appearing on the label is the Lot/Code/Batch number, as the case may be.

(3) Date of manufacture/ packing-

- a) In case the date of manufacture is embedded in the batch number/lot number/ code number or if the date of manufacture is not given in the label, it may be verified from relevant documents like certificate of analysis, declaration from manufacturer, etc. uploaded on FICS or e-Sanchit and rectification may be allowed after taking an undertaking from the importer on FICS or e-Sanchit stating that the contents of the said documents are genuine and true.

(4) **Declaration regarding Food Additives-**

- a) In case specific name or international numerical identification is given but class title is not specified and if importer submits declaration on FICS or e-Sanchit from manufacturer regarding the same or it is verified from relevant documents like invoice, certificate of analysis, ingredients list, etc., then rectification may be allowed after taking an undertaking from the importer on FICS or e-Sanchit stating that the contents of the said declaration are genuine and true.
2. This issues with the approval of the Competant Authority.


(Suneeti Toteja)
Director (Imports)

To

1. Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
2. Shri Binoy Kumar, Special Secretary (Logistics), Department of Commerce.
3. Smt. Seema Jere Bisht, Additional Director General, Risk Management Division, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)
4. Sh. S. P. Sahu, Commissioner (Single Window Project, CBEC)- for further necessary action.
5. Director (Customs), CBEC- for information and necessary actions.
6. Deputy Commissioner, (Single Window Project, CBEC)
7. Advisor (Standard)
8. Advisor (Regulation)
9. Advisor (QA), FSSAI
10. Head (Legal/GA), FSSAI
11. Director (RCD), FSSAI
12. All Authorised Officers of FSSAI
13. PPS to Chairperson, FSSAI
14. PS to CEO, FSSAI
15. CITO (for uploading on the FSSAI website)