

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: August 13, 2024

Report Number: IN2024-0036

Report Name: India - More Time for Implementation of Integrated Veterinary Health Certificate for Importing Milk and Milk products

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: FAIRS Export Certificate Report, Dairy and Products

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Report Highlights:

On August 7, India's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) published Office Memorandum L-11/1/2019-Trade (E-11542) granting another three-month extension in the implementation of the integrated veterinary health certificate for import of milk and milk products. As per DAHD's July 10, 2024, notification, the implementation of the integrated veterinary health certificate was to begin from August 1, 2024, but as per the recent notification, implementation will begin from November 1, 2024, owing to requests from the Indian industry and a joint FAS-USTR request.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) website <https://dahd.nic.in/trade>. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, USDA, and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of India has not officially endorsed this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Indian officials at the time of product entry. [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links that do not open in Internet Explorer. Indian host sites will geo block site access on a rolling basis].

GENERAL INFORMATION:

On August 7, 2024, India's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) published on its website **Office Memorandum (OM) L-11/1/2019-Trade (E-11542)**, announcing a delay in the implementation of its integrated veterinary health certificate (VHC) requirements for import of milk and milk products to October 31, 2024. The implementation will now begin from November 1, 2024 (see Appendix I). Earlier, in July 2024, DAHD notified an extension of timeline for implementation to July 31, 2024, but it was not implemented owing to a combination of requests from concerned Indian importers and a joint FAS – U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) request.

DAHD's recent memorandum notes that shipments of milk and milk products from all exporting countries after October 31, 2024, must have a bill of lading and an integrated VHC to comply with the requirements, as published by DAHD on March 31, 2023 (see, [GAIN-INDIA-IN2023-0030-Got Milk-India's DAHD Publishes Its Integrated Veterinary Health Certificate for the Import of Milk and Milk Products](#)).

Background: On March 31, 2023, India's Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), published its integrated veterinary health certificate (VHC) for the import of milk and milk products into India. The integrated VHC incorporates the DAHD's sanitary requirements along with those of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) food safety requirements. The integrated VHC needs to be certified by the exporting country's authority for consignments being exported to India (see, [GAIN-INDIA-IN2023-0030-Got Milk- India's DAHD Publishes Its Integrated Veterinary Health Certificate for the Import of Milk and Milk Products](#)). On July 17, 2023, the DAHD published Office Memorandum to grant additional transition time to stakeholders before implementation began on the requirements of VHC for the import of milk and milk products into India. That modified implementation date was December 31, 2023 (see, [GAIN-INDIA-IN2023-0053-India-Implementation of Transition Period for the Integrated Veterinary Health Certificate for Imports of Milk and Milk Products](#)). However, on January 3, 2024, the DAHD granted another six months in response to requests received from U.S. government and Indian industry stakeholders. It was extended from 31, December to June 30, 2024 (see, [GAIN-INDIA-IN2024-0001-Timeline for Implementation of Integrated Veterinary Health Certificate Gets Another Extension](#)), and then from June 30, 2024 to July 31, 2024 (see, [GAIN-INDIA-IN2024-30- India Extends Timeline for Implementation of Integrated Veterinary Health Certificate for Milk and Milk products](#)).

The full text of August 7 Office Memorandum (OM) L-11/1/2019-Trade (E-11542) is found on the DAHD's website located at:

<https://dahd.nic.in/sites/default/files/OM7August2024OnIntegratedVHCFForImportOfMilkAndMilkProducts.pdf>

Appendix I: India Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying- August 2024, Revised Office Memorandum Relating to the Veterinary Health Certificate for the Import of Milk and Milk Products

File No. L-11/1/2019-Trade (E-11542)
भारत सरकार
Government of India
मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली -110 001,
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001,
दिनांक / Dated the 7th August, 2024.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Veterinary Health Certificate for Import of Milk and Milk Products into India – regarding.

Vide this Department's O.M. of even number, dated 31st March, 2023 (**copy enclosed**), the Integrated Veterinary Health Certificate for Import of Milk and Milk Products into India, incorporating DAHD's sanitary requirements and FSSAI's food safety requirements was issued which has to be certified by the exporting country along with the consignments to be exported into India. Further, vide this Department's O.M. of even number, dated 17th July, 2023 (**copy enclosed**), the transition / migration time was increased till 31st December, 2023. Subsequently, vide this Department's O.M. of even number, dated 3rd January, 2024 (**copy enclosed**), the transition / migration time was increased till 30th June, 2024 and again vide this Department's O.M. of even number, dated 10th July, 2024 (**copy enclosed**), the transition / migration time was increased till 31st July, 2024

2. **Now, the transition / migration time has been again extended till 31st October, 2024.** The imported consignments of milk and milk products having bill of lading / date of issuance of Veterinary Health Certificate from exporting countries after 31st October, 2024 will only be considered for post-import clearance based upon Integrated Veterinary Health Certificate for Import of Milk and Milk Products into India.

3. This has the approval of the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Encls: As above.


(डॉ अनिरुद्ध उदयकार)
(Dr. Aniruddha Udaykar)
सहायक आयुक्त (व्यापार)
Assistant Commissioner (Trade)

Distribution:

- All Regional Officers / Quarantine Officers, Animal Quarantine and Certification Service, Delhi / Mumbai / Bengaluru / Chennai / Kolkata / Hyderabad.

Copy for kind information and necessary action to;

1. The Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. Email: csoffice@nic.in
2. Chairman, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002. Email: chairperson@fssai.gov.in
3. Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002. Email: ceo@fssai.gov.in
4. Drug Controller General of India, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate General of Health Services, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi -110002. Email: dci@nic.in
5. Director General, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. Email: dgft@nic.in
6. Joint Secretary (Customs), Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Department of Revenue, North Block, New Delhi. Email: jscus@nic.in
7. Director (Customs), Department of Revenue, Email: dircus@nic.in
8. Director, Trade Policy Division (TPD), Department of Commerce, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001. E-mail : d2tpd-doc@nic.in
9. All AQCSs to disseminate the information with all stakeholders including importers through facilitation channels.
10. NIC, DAHD with a request to upload on the SIP Portal, Departmental and AQCS's website.

Copy also for kind information to;

1. PS to the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
 2. PS to the Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (SPSB).
 3. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, AHD.
 4. PPS / PS to the AS (VJ) / AHC / JS (OPC) / JS (SC)/JS(SSP).
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Attachments:

No Attachments.