

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** July 24, 2024

**Report Number:** IN2024-0030

**Report Name:** India Extends Timeline for Implementation of Integrated Veterinary Health Certificate for Milk and Milk products

**Country:** India

**Post:** New Delhi

**Report Category:** FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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**Approved By:** Joanna Brown, Agricultural Attaché

**Report Highlights:**

On July 10, India's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) published Office Memorandum L-11/1/2019-Trade (E-11542) granting a one-month extension in the implementation of the integrated veterinary health certificate for import of milk and milk products. As per DAHD's January 3, 2024, notification, the implementation of the integrated veterinary health certificate was to begin from July 1, 2024, but has been delayed to August 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 July 10, 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. The implementation will now begin from August 1, 2024 (see Appendix I). Earlier, in January 2024, DAHD notified an implementation date of July 1, 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) letter.

The DAHD memorandum notes that shipments of milk and milk products from all exporting countries must have a bill of lading and an integrated VHC after July 31, 2024, to comply with the integrated VHC 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, Animal Husbandry and Dairying/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](#)). The most recent extension continues in the same vein to provide sufficient transition time for the new requirements to be met and prevent any disruption in trade.

The full text of **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/VeterinaryHealthCertificate.pdf>.

**Appendix I: India Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying- July 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 10<sup>th</sup> July, 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 (**copy enclosed**), the transition / migration time was increased till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023. Subsequently, vide this Department's O.M. of even number, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2024 (**copy enclosed**), the transition / migration time was again increased till 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

2. Considering the representations received from various stakeholders, **the transition / migration time has been again increased till 31<sup>th</sup> July, 2024**. The imported consignments of milk and milk products having bill of lading / date of issuance of Veterinary Health Certificate from exporting countries after 31<sup>st</sup> July, 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, Vanija 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, Vanija 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 (dircus@nic.in)
8. Director, Trade Policy Division (TPD), Department of Commerce, Vanija Bhawan, New Delhi - I IO 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.