

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Food Safety and Standard Authority of India Announces New Timeline for Compliance with Labeling Requirements

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On January 3, India's Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) announced a new timeline to comply with its food labeling requirements. Effective immediately, FSSAI has marked July 1 of each year as the implementation date for any new or amended labeling regulation. The timeline also includes a minimum 180-day window for compliance by food business operators.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) website <http://www.fssai.gov.in>. 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 Microsoft Edge. Indian host sites geo-block website access on a rolling basis].

GENERAL INFORMATION:

On January 3, 2025, India's Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) published order **F. No. REG-17/2/2022-Regulation-FSSAI** which sets July 1 of each year as the date of implementation for any new or amended labeling and display requirement specified in its food safety and standards regulations. Compliance by food business operators, however, will include a minimum of a 180-day window from the date of FSSAI's notification. For example, if there is an FSSAI notification amending a labeling requirement and it is published in the month of March this year, food business operators would need to comply with the amendment starting from July 1 of next year, i.e., 2026 as that would fall within the minimum 180-day window from the date of the notification.

In addition to this timeline, the FSSAI order also states that in case of emergency situations, the implementation date will be decided on a case-to-case basis.

Prior to this announcement, Indian industry expressed the challenges of complying with FSSAI's food labeling requirements as it's standard industry practice to use pre-printed packaging materials for food labeling. As such, FSSAI's initiative to issue this change addresses these operational challenges by providing industry with a predictable timeline for complying with any new or amended food labeling regulations. Further, the announcement is beneficial to U.S. food manufacturers as it allows for longer use of pre-printed packaging materials, reduces waste, and fosters operational efficiency. Additionally, FSSAI's approach supports environmental sustainability by minimizing the carbon footprint associated with frequent packaging changes.

The full text of the FSSAI order is pasted below as Appendix-I and is available on FSSAI's website at:

<https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2025/01/6777c52523e69Order%20regarding%20decision%20taken%20in%2045th%20FA%20Meeting%20regarding%20timeline%20for%20the%20compliance%20of%20amendments%20in%20labelling%20provisions.pdf>

APPENDIX I - FSSAI's Order Regarding Timeline for Compliance of Amendments in Labeling Provisions

F. No. REG-17/2/2022-Regulation-FSSAI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002

Dated: the 03rd January 2025

Order

Sub: Decision taken in 45th Food Authority Meeting regarding timeline for the compliance of amendments in labelling provisions

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India make or amend the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, with the approval of the Central Government.

2. In the 45th Meeting of the Food Authority, following has been decided for the implementation of amendments in labelling provisions:

- (i) The date of enforcement as 1st July subject to minimum of 180 days from the date of notification for the amendments related to FSS (Labelling and Display) Regulations and also for any change in labelling specified in other FSS Regulations.
- (ii) In case of emergency situations, the matter of implementation /enforcement may be decided on case to case basis.

(Anil Mehta)
Director (Regulation)

Attachments:

No Attachments.