

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: India Releases Guidance for Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate as Food Packaging Material

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

India published guidelines for accepting recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate (rPET) as a food contact material. These guidelines are in alignment with its recently published measure that aims to enhance food safety standards by allowing the use of rPET for food packing, storage, and distribution. The guidelines specify that rPET used for food packaging must adhere to the prescribed quality and safety standards.

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 site access on a rolling basis].

GENERAL INFORMATION:

On May 23, 2025, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published new guidelines for the use of recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate as a food contact material (FCM-rPET). The main objective of these guidelines is to ensure that recycled materials are safe for direct contact with food. The guidelines outline the process requirements, acceptance criteria for FCM-rPET resin, marking and labeling requirements as well as other documentation requirements for the authorization process. The guidelines apply only to recycling technology approved by FSSAI and exclude production of resins for non-food grade consumer applications.

Background: On March 28, 2025, FSSAI published the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) First Amendment Regulations, 2025 that allows the use of rPET for food packaging, storage and distribution. This measure by FSSAI supports India's efforts to promote sustainable agricultural and food practices and reduce plastic waste by encouraging the reuse of materials while ensuring food safety. The enforcement date for this measure is set for July 1. For additional information, see [GAIN-INDIA-IN2025-0024-India Amends Its Packaging Regulations on Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate](#).

The full text of the guidelines as well as the application for authorization of FCM-rPET manufacturers is available on FSSAI's [website](#). The English text starts on page 8 of the document.

Attachments:

[6834550d9ff1eGuidelines for acceptance of recycled Polyethylene terephthalate PET as Food Contact Material.pdf](#)