

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: FSSAI Notifies Amendments to Alcoholic Beverages Regulations

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

Report Category: Beverages, Exporter Guide, FAIRS Subject Report, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) First Amendment Regulations, 2025, in the Gazette of India (Notification No. F. No. STD/SP-21/T(Alcohol-6). The amendments introduce new definitions of alcoholic ready-to-drink (RTD) beverages, country liquor, honey wine (mead), wine-based beverages, and nitro craft beer with additional amendments to requirements for fruit wines, craft beers and RTDs.

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. Consulate in Mumbai, USDA, and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of India has not officially endorsed this report.*

On June 25, 2025, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India notified the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) First Amendment Regulations, 2025, which introduced new definitions of alcoholic ready-to-drink (RTD) beverages, country liquor, honey wine (mead), wine-based beverages, and nitro craft beer. The regulation also contains a few amendments related to the craft beer requirements and RTDs.

The effective date for implementation of the amendments is January 1, 2026. The full text of the FSSAI notification is provided as an attachment to this report. The notification is also available on the FSSAI website.

Details of Notification: June 20, 2025

- Date of Publication on FSSAI website: July 24, 2025 - [Food Safety and Standards \(Alcoholic Beverages\) First Amendment Regulations, 2025](#)
- Date of Implementation: January 1, 2026
- Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulation, 2018 (updated as of August 28, 2023) - [Compendium Alcoholic Beverages Regulation](#)

Agency in Charge: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health, and Family Welfare, GOI.

Products affected: Alcoholic Beverages

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 20th June, 2025

F. No. STD/SP-21/T(Alcohol-6).— Whereas the draft Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Amendment Regulations, 2023 were published as required by sub-section (1) of section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006), vide notification of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India number, F. No. STD/SP-21/T(Alcohol-6), dated the 11th May, 2023, in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, inviting objections and suggestions from the persons likely to be affected thereby, before the expiry of the period of sixty days from the date on which the copies of the Official Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

And whereas, the copies of the said Gazette were made available to the public on the 19th May, 2023;

And whereas, objections and suggestions received from the public in respect of the said draft regulations have been considered by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 92 of the said Act, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India hereby makes the following regulations further to amend the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018, namely: -

1. These regulations may be called the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) first Amendment Regulations, 2025.
2. They shall come into force on 01st January, 2026.
3. In the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018, —

(1) in PART-1,

(a) in regulation 1.2 relating to 'Definitions', after sub-regulation 1.2.4, the following shall be inserted, namely:

‘1.2.4a, “alcoholic ready-to-drink beverages” means, flavored beverages having more than 0.5 and up to 15.0% of alcohol by volume, made from spirit or the mixture of spirit or any alcoholic beverage as base by adding natural or nature identical or artificial flavors and food additives permitted under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, or a combination thereof, and fruit or vegetable juice or herbs or spices, or a combination thereof, with or without added sugar or caloric sweeteners or salt and with or without carbonation. In case of carbonated alcoholic ready-to-drink beverages, they shall be carbonated with carbon dioxide, which shall have a minimum of one volume of carbon dioxide and shall conform to the requirements of TABLE-4.]’.

(b) in regulation 1.3, in sub-regulation 1.3.9, after the proviso, for the words beginning with “Alcoholic beverage containing” and ending with “the requirements of TABLE-4”, the following shall be substituted, namely: -

“Alcoholic beverage containing more than 0.5 per cent abv and up to 15.0 per cent abv shall be called as Alcoholic ready-to-drink beverage and it shall conform to the definition provided under regulation 1.2 and the requirements of TABLE-4.”;

(2) in PART 2, for regulation 2.2, the following regulation shall be substituted, namely: -

“2.2 Country liquors or Indian Liquors: Country liquors or Indian Liquors or spirits are alcoholic beverages obtained from distillation of fermentable carbohydrates of agricultural origin. Country liquors or Indian made Liquors may also be of the following types, namely: -

2.2.1 Plain country liquor or Plain Indian liquor: Plain country liquor or Plain Indian liquor shall be made from alcoholic distillate obtained from fermented molasses, jaggery (Gur), mash of cereals, potato, cassava, fruits, juice or sap of coconut and palm trees, mahua flowers or any other carbohydrates of agricultural origin.

2.2.2 Blended country liquor or Blended Indian liquor: Blended country liquor or Blended Indian liquor is a blend of an alcoholic distillate, rectified spirit or neutral spirit.

Note: Country liquor or Indian liquor shall also conform to the general requirement specified in PART 1 and requirements specified in TABLE – 1. Product name and ingredients or raw materials for such products are specified in Annexure-1 of these regulations and the same are not exhaustive.”.

(3) in PART-3, in regulation 3.1, -

(a) in sub-regulation 3.1.4, -

(i) for the heading “Wine from fruits other than grapes”, the following heading shall be substituted, namely: -

“Fruit Wine (other than grape wine) along with Honey wine”;

(ii) after clause 3.1.4.3, the following clause shall be inserted, namely: -

“3.1.4.4 Honey wine or Mead: Honey wine or Mead is a wine produced from the fermentation of an aqueous solution of honey by yeasts without addition of any other carbohydrate source. It may contain herbs, spices or natural flavourings and shall conform to the requirements provided under Table-2 except ethyl alcohol content which may vary between 4% to 15.5%.”;

(b) in sub-regulation 3.1.5, after the words “juice or sap”, the words “or whole grains” shall be inserted;

(c) in sub-regulation 3.1.6, after the words “or any other approved substance”, the words “Wine Based Beverages may or may not be carbonated.” shall be inserted,

(4) in PART 4, in regulation 4.2, after sub-regulation 4.2 (1), the following sub-regulation shall be inserted, namely: -

“4.2 (1) (i) Nitro Craft Beer- Nitro Craft Beer is the craft beer having the mixture of CO₂ and N₂ gas.”

(5) in TABLE-1, -

(a) for the heading in column 5, the following heading shall be substituted, namely: -

“Country Liquor, Indian Liquor, Plain Country Liquor or Plain Indian Liquor”;

(b) for the heading in column 6, the following heading shall be substituted, namely: -

“Blended Country Liquors or Blended Indian Liquors”;

(c) in the footnote, for the words “low alcoholic beverages”, the words “Ready to Drink Alcoholic Beverage” shall be substituted;

(6) in TABLE-2, -

(a) in column 7, in the heading, after the words “Fruit Wine (other than grape wine)”, the words “along with Honey wine” shall be inserted;

(b) in the foot note, for the words “in accordance with their”, the words “except the characteristic”, shall be substituted.

(7) in TABLE-3, -

(a) in Column 2,

(i) against serial number 3, for the words “Carbon dioxide, v/v, Min”, the words “CO₂ or Mixture of CO₂ and N₂ gas, v/v, Min***” shall be substituted;

(ii) against serial number 10, for the words “Total plate count, cfu per ml”, the words, “Total plate count, cfu per ml ****” shall be substituted.

(b) after column (7), the following column shall be inserted, namely: -

Craft Beer
Strong
(8)
More than 5.0 up to 8.0
3.3-4.8

1.8-3.6
50.0
2.0
5.0
0.2
0.25
0.1
<100
Absent
Absent
*

(c) after the existing footnotes, the following footnotes shall be inserted, namely: -

“ *** Mixture of CO₂ and N₂ gas is applicable for craft beer.

**** Does not include Brewer's yeast.”.

(8) in TABLE 4, -

(a) for the existing heading, the heading “Requirements for Alcoholic Ready-to-drink beverages” shall be substituted;

(b) against serial number 1, in column (3), for the entry ‘>0.5 to 8.0’, the entry ‘>0.5 to <15.0’, shall be substituted.

(9) after TABLE 4, the following Annexure shall be inserted, namely: -

“Annexure-1

Table I: List of Indian Liquors (Distilled Liquor)

S. No.	Alcoholic products	Raw materials and Starter	Product category to comply
1	<i>Acham</i>	Rice, <i>chamri</i>	Table 1 (5)
2	<i>Ark</i> or <i>ara</i>	Barley, apple, wild apricot	Table 1 (5)
3	<i>Arak</i> or <i>Hor-Alank</i>	Rice, <i>Thap</i>	Table 1 (5)
4	<i>Aara</i>	Cereals, paa, pee	Table 1 (5)

5	<i>Basi</i>	Rice	Table 1 (5)
6	<i>Batta Sarai</i>	Clear distilled liquor; alcoholic drink	Table 1(5)
7	<i>Daru</i>	Cereal	Table 1 (5)
8	<i>Handia</i>	Rice, ranu	Table 1 (5)
9	<i>Haria</i>	Rice and bhakar or dabai or mod pitha	Table 1 (5)
10	<i>Juharo</i>	Rice, humao	Table 1 (5)
11	<i>Kiad</i>	Rice, <i>thiat</i>	Table 1 (5)
12	<i>Madda feni</i>	Cashew fruit	Table 1 (5)
13	<i>Madhu</i>	Rice, khekhrii	Table 1 (5)
14	<i>Madua Apong</i>	Finger millet, phab	Table 1 (5)
15	<i>Mahua</i>	Dried corollas of <i>Madhuca longifolia</i> and ranu	Table 1 (5)
16	<i>Nava Sagara/kandasarai</i>	Jaggery, Molasses	Table 1(5)
17	<i>Nchiangne</i>	Red rice	Table 1 (5)
18	<i>Raksi</i>	Cereals and marcha	Table 1 (5)
19	<i>Rakzu</i>	Rice and <i>dawdim</i>	Table 1 (5)
20	<i>Ruhi</i>	Rice	Table 1 (5)
21	<i>Soor</i>	Fruits and <i>keem</i>	Table 1 (5)
22	<i>Tim-zu</i>	Rice and dawdim	Table 1 (5)
23	<i>Toddy liquor</i>	Made from distilled palm sap	Table 1(5)
24	<i>Xaj pani/koloh pani</i>	Rice, <i>xaj pittha</i>	Table 1 (5)
25	<i>Yu</i>	Rice, <i>hamei</i>	Table 1 (5)
26	<i>Zu</i>	Rice	Table 1 (5)
27	<i>Zupui</i>	Rice and dawdim	Table 1 (5)

Table II: List of Indian Liquor (Undistilled Liquor)

S. No.	Alcoholic products	Raw materials and Starter	Product category to comply
1	<i>Angoori</i> or <i>kinnauri</i>	Grapes	Table 2 [White Wine (3) and Red Wine (4)]
2	<i>Chulli</i>	Apricot	Table 2 (7)
3	<i>Ghanti</i>	Apple and apricot	Table 2 (7)

Table III: List of Indian Liquor (Ready to Drink Alcoholic Beverage)

S. No.	Alcoholic products	Raw materials and Starter	Product category to comply
1	<i>Apong</i> or <i>emmog</i>	Rice, <i>Apop pitha</i>	Table 4
2	<i>Atingba</i>	Rice, <i>hamei</i>	Table 4
3	<i>Ahom</i>	Rice and <i>vekur pitha</i>	Table 4
4	Bhaati jaanr	Rice, marcha	Table 4
5	<i>Bhang-chyang</i>	Maizerice/ barley and pham	Table 4
6	<i>Buza</i>	Barley	Table 4
7	<i>Chhang/Chyang/Chee/ Kodo ko jaanr</i>	Finger millet/barley and <i>phab</i>	Table 4
8	<i>Chhind</i>	Extracted sap of chhind (<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>)	Table 4
9	<i>Chakti</i>	Jaggery	Table 4

10	<i>Dekuijao</i>	Rice	Table 4
11	<i>Duizou</i>	Red rice, khekhrii	Table 4
12	<i>Ennog</i>	Black rice, phut	Table 4
13	<i>Faapar ko jaanr</i>	Buck wheat, marcha	Table 4
14	<i>Gahoon ko jaanr</i>	Wheat, marcha	Table 4
15	<i>Jann or jaan</i>	Rice, wheat and other cereals and balam	Table 4
16	<i>Jao ko jaanr</i>	Barley, marcha	Table 4
17	<i>Jhara</i>	Rice, dabai ranu	Table 4
18	<i>Jou</i>	<i>Rice, khekhrii</i>	Table 4
19	Jou Bishi	Rice, angkur	Table 4
20	<i>Judima</i>	Rice, <i>humao</i>	Table 4
21	<i>Juhming</i>	Rice	Table 4
22	<i>Kodo ko jaanr</i>	Finger millet and <i>marcha</i>	Table 4
23	<i>Khor</i>	Germinated rice	Table 4
24	<i>Kanji</i>	Beet carrot root and torami	Table 4
25	<i>Langi</i>	Rice, chowan	Table 4

26	<i>Laopani</i>	Rice, <i>pitha</i>	Table 4
27	<i>Lugri</i>	Barley	Table 4
28	<i>Mingari/Lohpani</i>	Maize, rice or barley and pham	Table 4
29	<i>Makai ko jaanr</i>	Maize, <i>marcha</i>	Table 4
30	<i>Nduijao</i>	Rice	Table 4
31	<i>Nyongin</i>	Rice, <i>opop</i>	Table 4
32	<i>Oa</i>	Rice-fillet mixture, <i>paa</i>	Table 4
33	<i>Opo</i>	Rice-millet	Table 4
34	<i>Pachwai</i>	Rice, <i>bhakar</i>	Table 4
35	<i>Patso</i>	Rice, <i>chamri</i>	Table 4
36	<i>Pendum</i>	Rice, herbs, ranu or bhakar	Table 4
37	<i>Pheijou</i>	Rice, husk, <i>khai</i>	Table 4
38	<i>Pona/Pone</i>	Rice	Table 4
39	<i>Rak</i>	Apple, wild almond, apricot and jiggery and phab	Table 4
40	<i>Sez</i>	Rice	Table 4
41	<i>Sujen</i>	Rice and <i>mod pitha</i> or <i>perok kushi</i>	Table 4

42	<i>Sura</i>	Finger millet	Table 4
43	<i>Simal tarul ko jaanr</i>	Cassava tuber and <i>marcha</i>	Table 4
44	<i>Sira-Oa</i>	Rice-fillet mixture, paa	Table 4
45	<i>Themsing</i>	Finger millet/barley	Table 4
46	<i>Timpui</i>	Rice, <i>khai</i>	Table 4
47	<i>Waiyu</i>	Rice, husk, khai	Table 4
48	<i>Yu angouba</i>	Germinated rice	Table 4
49	<i>Zoungao</i>	Germinated rice	Table 4
50	<i>Zutho/Zhuchu</i>	Rice, <i>khekhrii</i>	Table 4
51	<i>Zufang</i>	Sticky rice and dawdim	Table 4

Note: The products specified in Table I, II and III of the Annexure, which are governed by any other Act and Regulations are exempted from the provisions of these Regulations.”.

G. KAMALA VARDHANA RAO, Chief Executive Officer
[ADVT.-III/4/Exty./186/2025-26]

Note. - The principal regulations were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, vide notification number F. No. 2/SA-24/2009(1)/FSSAI, dated 19th March, 2018 and last amended vide notification no. F. No. STD/SP-21/T(Alcohol-4) dated 21st August, 2023.

Attachments:

No Attachments.