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India

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Amendments in Food Import Regulations

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Exporter Guide

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and
Standards - Narrative

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Report Highlights:

The Government of India (GOI) recently notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) changes in India's Food Import Regulations. The comment period for trading partners expires 60 days beyond the notification date as listed on the WTO's website (www.wto.org).

General Information:

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India's (FSSAI) website <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>. The Office of Agricultural Affairs and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity.

On June 20, 2017, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notified amendments in the Food Import Regulations and invited comments from the WTO member countries. The comment period for trading partners expires 60 days from the date it is notified on WTO website (www.wto.org).

The major amendment of the subject notification relates to the requirement of a sanitary export certificate from authorized agencies in exporting countries for certain food categories as may be specified by the Food Authority from time to time. This requirement was not specified earlier in the 2016 Food Import Regulations. Other amendments relate to (i) validity of shelf life of food products; (ii) requirement of the food importers' to register with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade and possess a valid import-export code; and (iii) creating a profile of the importer, custom house agents, imported product, manufacturer of the imported products, country of origin, source country of the consignment, port of entry, compliance history and any other parameters required to line up the risk associated with the food product.

Comments, within 60 days from the date of notification in WTO website, should be sent to:

The Chief Executive Officer
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
3rd Floor, Food and Drug Administration Bhawan, Kotla Road
New Delhi – 110002
Email: spstbt.enqpt@fssai.gov.in

Details of Notification:

- Date of Publication on FSSAI website: June 20, 2017
- Final date for comments from WTO members: 60 days from the date notified on WTO website

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

The full text of the notification is pasted below and can also be accessed from FSSAI's website: <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>.

Notice Calling for suggestions, views, comments etc from WTO-SPS Committee members on the draft standards related to amendment in Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017

F. No. REG/11/25/Import amendment/FSSAI-2017.- In the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017,-

A. in chapter –II, relating to ‘Licensing of Food Importers’, in regulation 3,-

a. “sub-regulation (2), shall be omitted.”

b. for Sub-regulation (3), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(2) For the purpose of sub-regulation (1), the Food Importer shall register himself with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade and possess valid Import-Export Code.”

B. in chapter –III, relating to ‘Clearance of Imported Food by the Food Authority’, in regulation 5, after sub-regulation (5) the following sub-regulation shall be inserted, namely:-

“(6) No article of food shall be cleared from the custom unless it has a valid shelf life of not less than sixty per cent. or three months whichever is less at the time of import.”

C. in Chapter VII, relating to ‘Scheme for Risk based Food Import Clearance’, in regulation 11, for sub-regulation (2), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(2) For the purpose of sub-regulation (1),

(a) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India shall profile the Importer, Custom House Agents, imported product, manufacturer of the imported product, country of origin, source country of the consignment, port of entry, compliance history and any other parameters deemed fit for profiling the risk associated with the commodity.

(b) The importer shall submit sanitary export certificate from authorized agencies in exporting countries for certain food categories as may be specified by the Food Authority from time to time.”