



Voluntary Report - Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: December 11, 2023

Report Number: IN2023-0091

Report Name: India - The FSSAI Updates Rectifiable Labeling Information for Imported Food Products

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

Prepared By: Radha Mani, Agricultural Specialist and Mariano J. Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Approved By: Mariano Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Report Highlights:

On November 28, 2023, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published Order F. No: TIC-B02/3/2023-IMPORTS-FSSAI. This FSSAI order allows for the rectification of all non-compliant labels on imported food consignments at the portof-entry. This can now be accomplished by affixing a single, non-detachable sticker, or by any other non-detachable method within the confines of an India Central Board of Excise and Customs (Customs) bonded warehouse before the visual inspection, or the re-inspection, by the FSSAI authorities. The list of permissible rectification label components, however, excludes: (i) Lot number/Code number/Batch identification, (ii) Date marking ("Date of manufacture or packaging" and "Expiry/Use by/Best before"), and (iii) Country of origin for imported foods. These labeling components cannot be changed, altered, modified, or rectified and should be on the label of the imported food product when it arrives at the Indian port. **DISCLAIMER:** The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) website <u>http://www.fssai.gov.in</u>. 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 will geoblock site access on a rolling basis].

GENERAL INFORMATION

On November 28, 2023, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published the **Order F. No: TIC-B02/3/2023-IMPORTS-FSSAI** (see, Appendix I).

Background:

The FSSAI **Order F. No: TIC-B02/3/2023-IMPORTS-FSSAI** allows for the rectification of all non-compliant labels on imported food consignments to be done at the port-of-entry. This can now be accomplished by affixing a single, non-detachable sticker, or by any other non-detachable method within the confines of an India Central Board of Excise and Customs (Customs) bonded warehouse before the visual inspection, or the re-inspection, by the FSSAI authorities.

The list of permissible rectification label components, however, excludes: (i) Lot number/Code number/Batch identification, (ii) Date marking ("Date of manufacture or packaging" and "Expiry/Use by/Best before"), and (iii) Country of origin for imported foods. This means these labeling components cannot be changed, altered, modified, or rectified and should be on the label of the imported food product when it arrives at the Indian port. The authorized FSSAI officer or his representative will verify the label's compliance during visual inspection. Samples will only be taken for testing only if the labeling information is compliant with the Food Safety and Standards Regulations. The current FSSAI order supersedes all previous orders issued on this subject.

The full text of the FASSI **Order F. No: TIC-B02/3/2023-IMPORTS-FSSAI** is accessible on the FSSAI website at:

https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2023/11/6565a92ca991alabel%20rectification%20order_28 .11.2023.pdf.

APPENDIX I: FSSAI Order F. No: TIC-B02/3/2023-IMPORTS-FSSAI – UPDATED RECTIFIABLE LABELING INFORMATION FOR IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS

F. No: TIC-B02/3/2023-IMPORTS-FSSAI Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) (A Statutory Authority established under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006) (Trade and International Cooperation Division-TICD) FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi- 110002

Dated, the 28thNovember, 2023

<u>Order</u>

Subject: Rectifiable labelling information for imported food consignments -reg.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 25 of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 read with the regulation 6 (4)(e) of Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulation, 2017, it has been decided by the Competent Authority that all labelling deficiencies on imported food consignment may be permitted for rectification in the custom bonded warehouse, except the following:

- 1) Lot No. / Code No. / Batch identification
- 2) Date Marking [Date of manufacture or packaging" and "Expiry/Use by/Best Before]
- 3) Country of Origin for Imported Foods

2. The Label rectification has to be carried out at Customs bonded warehouses, before visual inspection or re-inspection by the Authorised Officer or his representative, by affixing a single non detachable sticker or by any other non-detachable method.

3. The Authorized Officer/his representative shall verify the label compliance during visual inspection and the consignment shall be subject to sampling and testing only if it is compliant on labelling requirements as per the FSS Regulations.

4. The above modifications are done to facilitate ease of doing business while ensuring the safety of food imported into India. This office order supersedes all previous orders issued in this regard.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(Manvesh Kumar, IRS) Director (Import) FSSAI, New Delhi

Attachments:

No Attachments.