

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** September 07, 2022

**Report Number:** IN2022-0074

**Report Name:** India's FSSAI Suspends AGMARK Certification Requirement for Imports of Blended Edible Vegetable Oils

**Country:** India

**Post:** New Delhi

**Report Category:** FAIRS Subject Report

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

**Approved By:** Ronald Verdonk, Agricultural Minister Counselor

**Report Highlights:**

On August 18, 2022, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued clarification (No. TIC-20012/2/2021-IMPORTS-FSSAI) that its requirement for AGMARK (an Indian certification mark), prior to import of blended edible vegetable oils (BEVO), is kept in abeyance (suspended) until further notice.

**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 Internet Explorer. Indian host sites will geo-block site access on a rolling basis].

## GENERAL INFORMATION

On August 18, 2022, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued **Clarification No. TIC-20012/2/2021-IMPORTS-FSSAI** indicating that its requirement for AGMARK (an Indian certification mark), issued prior to import of blended edible vegetable oils (BEVO), is kept in abeyance (suspended) until further notice. The FSSAI (authority) notes that foreign country/overseas certification under Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act 1937 does not fall under the purview of the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), an office attached to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.



**Background:** On June 29, 2020, the FSSAI issued **Notification No. 12(3) 2016/Edible Oil/RCD/FSSAI**. The notification requires food business operators (FBOs) manufacturing and selling blended edible vegetable oils (BEVO) to use the AGMARK certification mark and the FSSAI license number. This requirement was implemented by the FSSAI because DMI brought to the authority's attention that many manufacturers of BEVO were obtaining the FSSAI license number without the AGMARK certification, and thus were in non-compliance with the FSSAI Act - Rules and Regulations. To carry out enforcement and surveillance on such FBOs, the requirement of AGMARK certification was initiated.

The June 29, 2020, **Notification No. 12(3) 2016/Edible Oil/RCD/FSSAI** and **Clarification No. TIC-20012/2/2021-IMPORTS-FSSAI** are accessible on the FSSAI website located at:

- [https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2022/08/62fdcd5b5182dAdvisory\\_AGMARK\\_Certification\\_18\\_08\\_2022.pdf](https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2022/08/62fdcd5b5182dAdvisory_AGMARK_Certification_18_08_2022.pdf)
- [https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ef9ae16065c9Letter\\_BEVO\\_AGMARK\\_29\\_06\\_2020.pdf](https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ef9ae16065c9Letter_BEVO_AGMARK_29_06_2020.pdf)

**ANNEX I: FSSAI CLARIFICATION (AUGUST 18, 2022) - RELATING TO AGMARK  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR IMPORT OF BLENDED EDIBLE VEGETABLE OIL**

File No: TIC-20012/2/2021-IMPORTS-FSSAI  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India  
(A Statuary Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)  
(Trade & International Cooperation Division)  
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002

Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

**Advisory**

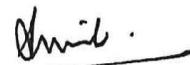
**Subject: - Clarification regarding FSSAI's requirement of AGMARK certification in case of Imported food products- reg.**

Reference is drawn to the advisory issued vide letter no. 1-1800/FSSAI/Imports/2019 dated 7th July, 2020 regarding requirement of AGMARK certification prior to Import of Blended Edible Vegetable Oils (BEVO).

In this regard, the representation has been received from various stakeholders seeking clarification with respect to applicability of requirement of AGMARK certification in case of Imported food products. The matter was taken up with the DMI and it has been informed that foreign country/overseas certification under Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act 1937 is not being carried out by DMI. Therefore, as decided, it was agreed to keep the requirement of AGMARK certification for imported food consignments in abeyance till further orders.

Considering the above said fact, the referenced advisory stands withdrawn. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours Sincerely,



(Dr. Amit Sharma)  
Director (Trade and IC)

**ANNEX II: FSSAI NOTIFICATION (JUNE 29, 2020) - RELATING TO BLENDED EDIBLE VEGETABLE OIL WITH AGMARK CERTIFICATION**



**File No. 12(3)2016/Edible Oil/RCD/FSSAI**  
**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**  
**(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)**  
**Regulatory Compliance Division**  
**FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110002**

Dated, the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

**Subject: Enforcement and Surveillance drive to ensure availability of blended edible vegetable oil (BEVO) with AGMARK certification.**

Sir/Madam,

The standards of blended edible vegetable oil (BEVO) have been specified under sub-regulation 2.2.1 (24) of Food Safety and Standards (Food product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 and labelling requirements for the same have been stipulated under sub-regulation 2.4.2(11) of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011. Further, **sub-regulation 2.3.14(11) of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 provides that blended edible vegetable oil shall be sold or offered for sale only under AGMARK certification mark.**

2. The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), an attached Office of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has brought to the notice of FSSAI that a large number of manufacturers of BEVO have obtained FSSAI licenses without AGMARK certification whereas it is mandatory for production and sale of BEVO in the country as per FSSAI Act, Rules and Regulations made thereunder. Further, it has also been reported that some Food Business Operators are packing combination of blends without FSSAI licenses.

3. In view of the above, it is requested that enforcement and surveillance may be carried out and appropriate action as per provisions of FSS Act 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder may be initiated against such Food Business Operators manufacturing & selling blended edible vegetable oil (BEVO) without AGMARK certification mark and FSSAI license. Information regarding grant, renewal, suspension or cancellation of FSSAI license in respect of BEVO may be provided to DMI at e-mail ID [dmiqc@nic.in](mailto:dmiqc@nic.in) in future. It is also requested that action taken report in this regard may please be sent to this office periodically.

Yours sincerely,

(Sanjeev Kumar)

Deputy Director, Regulatory Compliance

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.