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**Date:** 8/4/2017

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## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### **WTO Notified –Amendments in Indian 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:**

On July 31, 2017, India notified amendments in Food Import Regulations to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and invited comments from the member countries. The comment period, as listed on the WTO website ([www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)), expires on September 29, 2017.

## **General Information:**

**DISCLAIMER:** The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Government of India (GOI) and WTO websites: <http://www.fssai.gov.in/> and [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org). The Office of Agricultural Affairs and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity.

On July 31, 2017, the amendments proposed in the Food Import Regulations were notified to WTO for comments from the member countries. The comment period expires on September 29, 2017.

### **Background:**

On June 20, 2017, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notified amendments in Food Import Regulations. The major amendment related to the requirement of a sanitary export certificate from the 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. Readers' wishing to go through this background as well as FSSAI's notification of June 20, 2017, may refer to GAIN Report [IN7076](#).

Comments should be sent to:

The Chief Executive Officer  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Food and Drug Administration Bhawan, Kotla Road  
New Delhi – 110002  
Email: [spstbt.enqpt@fssai.gov.in](mailto:spstbt.enqpt@fssai.gov.in)

Publication date on the FSSAI website: June 20, 2017

Date of Implementation: To be determined

WTO Notification Number: SPS/N/IND/184

WTO Notification Date: July 31, 2017

Final date for comments: September 29, 2017

Products Affected: All imported food products

Agency in Charge: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, GOI

**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.”