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FAIRS Subject Report

GOI Provides Import Requirements for Raw Hides and Skins

2008

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Report Highlights:

On September 29, 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India (GOI) issued a final Gazette notification to further extend the partial and temporary exemption granted to raw hides and skins from the restricted list of import requirements to October 31, 2008. Additionally, on October 7, 2008, the Ministry released another notification to allow the import of various categories of raw hides and skins on the basis of a no objection certificate issued by the GOI animal quarantine and certification service stations. An import consignment is also required to be accompanied by a sanitary certificate duly certified by the designated veterinary authority of the exporting country.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
New Delhi [IN1]
[IN]

Introduction:

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture issued a final Gazette notification on September 29, 2008 to further extend the partial and temporary exemption granted to raw hides and skins from the restricted list of import requirements by another one month to October 31, 2008.

The Ministry, through another official notification dated October 7, 2008, exempted various categories of raw hides and skins from the requirements of obtaining a sanitary import permit prior to import. Nonetheless, imports will be allowed on the basis of a no objection certificate (NOC) issued at the time of import by the quarantine officer of the animal quarantine and certification service stations of the Ministry. Furthermore, a sanitary certificate prescribed by the Ministry and duly certified by the designated veterinary authority of the exporting country will also be required from November 1, 2008 onwards.

Post reported on earlier notifications related to the import arrangements for various categories of raw hides and skins via IN8033, IN8060 and IN8071.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a cursory review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural exports to India.

Details on the Gazette notification no. S.O.2303 (E) dated September 29, 2008.

Type of Regulation:	Final
Publication Date:	September 29, 2008
Notification to the WTO:	Not Notified (as of October 15, 2008)
Time period for receiving Comments/Suggestions:	None
Time period of Effectiveness of the rule:	Up to October 31, 2008
Products Affected:	Raw hides and skins of bovine or equine animals, sheep or lamb, other raw skins (skins of goats and swine), fresh or salt dried, limed, pickled or otherwise preserved but not tanned, parchment dressed or further prepared, whether or not de-haired or split with wool on or split.
Agency In charge:	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Government of India (GOI)

Note: The text of the notification can be assessed at:
http://dahd.nic.in/gazetteofindiasep29_08.pdf .

Details on the final official order no. 110-3/2008-Trade, dated October 7, 2008

Type of Regulation:	Final
Publication Date:	October 7, 2008
Notification to the WTO:	Not Notified (as of October 15, 2008)
Effective Date:	November 1, 2008
Products Affected:	Raw hides and skins of bovine or equine animals, sheep or lamb, other raw skins (skins of goats and swine), fresh or salt dried, limed, pickled or otherwise preserved but not tanned, parchment dressed or further prepared, whether or not de-haired or split with wool on or split.
Agency In charge:	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Government of India (GOI)

The text details of the notification can be assessed at:

<http://dahd.nic.in/trade/order07october2008.pdf>

The above notification provides reference to the detailed sanitary certificates for various categories of raw hides and skins and specific sanitary conditions for the import of cattle or buffalo hides into India (under the import protocol for various categories of raw hides and skins) are given below –

The undersigned Official Veterinarian certifies that the products described above satisfy the following requirements:

1. The country of origin is free from Rinderpest, Vesicular Stomatitis, Lumpy skin disease, Rift valley fever, Foot and Mouth Disease (SAT-I, II, III &C) and Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia.
2. The Skins and Hides have been obtained from the animals which were born, reared and slaughtered in the country of origin.
3. The skin and hides have been obtained from the animals slaughtered at an authorized slaughter house approved by the Government of the exporting country and subjected to ante and post mortem inspection by the official veterinarian.
4. The skins and hides have been obtained from animals which did not show clinical signs of Black Quarter, Tuberculosis, John's disease, FMD, Brucellosis, Anthrax, Leptospirosis and other contagious diseases and free from Ringworm, Mange, skin abscesses, wounds and burns at the time of slaughter.
5. The skins and hides are not derived from non ambulatory disabled animals and are free from any defect and abrasions.
6. The skins and hides are adequately dried and do not contain live tissues (i.e. trace of horn core, flesh & tendon) and have been adequately salted and disinfected.

7. The skins and hides have been processed by any of the following treatment;-
- Chemically treating/liming in acidic or alkaline solutions (soaking in a solution below pH 4.0 or above pH 12.5 for 24 hours)
 - The skins and hides have been treated for at least 28 days with salt (sodium chloride) with the addition of sodium carbonate to 2% such that, for each hide or skin, the total amount of the salt/carbonate mixture used is at least 50% of the weight of the hide or skin being treated.
 - Radiation of 50kGy gamma radiation.
8. Necessary precautions were taken, after collection and processing, to avoid contact of products with any potential source of infection.
9. The skins and hides after treatment has been packed with new, clean, fresh packing materials and the same satisfies the necessary sanitary hygiene requirements.

Official stamp:

Issued at _____ on _____
Name and address of Veterinarian

Signature

Note: The detailed sanitary protocols for import of various categories of raw hides and skins can be assessed at: <http://dahd.nic.in/trade/protocolforhidesandskin.htm>

Background:

The DADF released an official gazette notification on May 23, 2008 to provide temporary and partial exemption to the import of various categories of raw hides (mentioned under the products list above) from the restricted list of import requirements up to June 30, 2008. Detailed information on the related March 28, 2008 and May 23, 2008 notifications is contained in 'IN 8033' and 'IN 8060'.

Subsequently, on June 20, 2008 the DADF issued another notification which extended the provision of temporary and partial exemption to the import of various categories of raw hides further up to September 30, 2008. Furthermore, on September 29, 2008 the same arrangement was further extended to October 31, 2008. These specified categories of raw hides can be imported into India against the no objection certificate issued from the officer-in-charge of the specific Animal Quarantine and Certification Services Stations of the GOI up to October 31, 2008. However, per the DADF's notification dated October 7, 2008, any imports of specified categories of raw hides and skin after November 1, 2008 will only be allowed on the basis of a no objection certificate (NOC) issued at the time of the import by the quarantine officer of animal quarantine and certification services stations of the GOI Ministry of Agriculture, and a sanitary certificate prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture (duly certified by the designated veterinary authority of the exporting country).

For more information, visit the Ministry of Agriculture website at: <http://www.dahd.nic.in/>

The websites are mentioned for readers' convenience; USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained in the above sites