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Export Certificate Report

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**Report Highlights:**

In calendar year (CY) 2019, India saw a landmark move for the country's animal husbandry sector by the newly re-elected Modi government. A separate ministerial portfolio was formed for animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries, known as the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MFAHD). Additionally, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) revised its guidelines for the export/import of bovine germplasm. While the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQS) modified its list of low-phytosanitary risk processed food items by adding 'processed soy fiber hermetically packed.'

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## Disclaimer

This report was prepared by U.S. Embassy New Delhi’s Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) to serve as a reference guide for stakeholders wishing to export food and agricultural products to India. Only updates from CY 2019 and CY 2018 are listed in this report. OAA New Delhi highly recommends readers use the [USDA Global Agriculture Information Network \(GAIN\) search engine](#) to find the relevant GAIN FAIRS Export Certification reports for previous years. While OAA New Delhi makes every effort to accurately describe existing regulations, exporters are strongly advised to always verify import requirements with their customers prior to shipment. This report has not been officially endorsed by the GOI. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Indian Border Officials at the time of product entry.

**SECTION I. LIST OF ALL EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT (MATRIX):**

<b>Products</b>	<b>Title of Certificate</b>	<b>Attestation required on Certificate</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Requesting Ministry</b>
Plants and Plant Products	Phytosanitary Health Certificate	Both special conditions and additional declarations for the majority of the commodities per the specific conditions mentioned in the Plant Quarantine Order (PQ Order)/import permit.	To prevent the introduction of exotic pests and diseases.	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MOA), (formerly known as the Ministry of Agriculture)
Animals and Animal Products	Sanitary Health Certificate	Import requirements per the specific conditions mentioned in the import permit.	To prevent the introduction of exotic pests and diseases and minimize human health risks due to microbial or chemical contamination.	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MFAH&D)
Food Products	Certificate of Origin	Country of Origin	Traceability	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Notes:**

- For conditions imposed on specific plant products, please refer to the PQ Order 2003 (Regulation of Imports into India), as amended: <http://plantquarantineindia.nic.in/pqispub/pdf/files/pqorder2015.pdf>
- For conditions imposed on specific animal products, please refer to the MFAH&D's DAHD website, under the "Trade" section: <http://dahd.nic.in/> and <http://aqcsindia.gov.in/>. Interested U.S. exporters may also access the [USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\) website](#) to get required information on India's import requirements for U.S. livestock and livestock products to India. A list of links to import procedures for specific animal products is at the end of this section.
- A certificate of origin issued by the relevant authority of the exporting country's government, state government, industry association, or manufacturer/supplier should accompany the export consignment of all food and agricultural products, including processed and packaged food. This certificate should mention the order number, container number, port of discharge, buyer's name, and product description. The certificate also must include a declaration along the following lines: "The undersigned for (relevant organization) declares that the following mentioned

goods as consigned above (or below) are products from the United States (or any country of origin). We hereby certify the goods to be of U.S. (or any country) origin.”

- On January 21, 2019, DAHD revised its guidelines for export/import of bovine germplasm. Readers can access the revised guidelines from the DAHD website at [Guidelines for Export/Import of Bovine Germplasm - January 2019](#). The revised guidelines were not notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- On June 4, 2018, the GOI’s Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published a notification to invite comments from the WTO member countries on its new draft standards for a wide range of meat products. The range included canned /retort pouch, comminuted/restructured, cured/pickled and/or smoked, dried/dehydrated, cooked/semi-cooked, fermented, marinated meat products, and fresh/chilled/frozen rabbit meat ([GAIN IN8065](#)). The comment period for trading partners expired on August 18, 2018 per WTO notification [G-SPS-N-IND-217](#).
- In March 2018, the GOI granted access to U.S. poultry and poultry products into the Indian market, following an eleven-year absence. The poultry export requirements for India can be accessed from the export library page of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) website at: [FSIS Export Library](#). Links to bilaterally agreed import protocols are also available on MFAH&D’s DAHD website: <http://agcsindia.gov.in/trade.html>.

Indian import certification requirements and documentation for livestock and livestock products is updated below and available at the following link→ [Trade](#). Also, please find below hyperlinks to certain import procedures and guidelines related to livestock and livestock products:

- [Provisions to Regulate the Import of Poultry & Poultry Products into India](#)
- [Procedure for import of livestock notified under clause b of section 2 of livestock importation Act, 1898](#)
- [Procedure for import of livestock products notified under Section 2\(d\) and section 3A of the Livestock Importation Act](#)
- [Procedure for import and export of livestock](#)
- [Sanitary requirement \(veterinary health certificate\) for import of various livestock-products](#): crushed bones, ovine embryo, semen (pig, canine, equine, bovine, caprine, porcine, ovine), serum (equine and bovine), pork meat, processed lamb meat, fish and fisher products, milk and milk products, skin and hides, pet foods (draft veterinary certificate)

*[Note: Currently the U.S. has no market access for ovine/caprine semen and embryos; nor pork or pork products into India]*

- [Sanitary requirement \(veterinary health certificate\) for import of various live animals](#)
- [Procedure for importing dairy items](#)
- [Guidelines for Export/Import of Bovine Germplasm - January 2019](#)
- [Animal quarantine and certification services](#)

### **Processed Food Products**

India does not currently require specific import certificates for processed food products. However, meat and livestock products do require export certificates from the country of origin. On August 5, 2011, the GOI enforced its Food Safety and Standards Regulations (FSSR) 2011. The FSSR 2011 is administered by FSSAI, which oversees implementation of [The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006](#). Accordingly, all imported processed food and beverage products must meet the requirements established by FSSR 2011. Further information on these requirements will be detailed in the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) – Annual Country Report.

### **Notes:**

- On July 2, 2019, FSSAI published new [Draft Labeling and Display Regulations, 2019](#) covering the labeling requirements for pre-packaged foods and the display of essential information, such as allergens, calorie information, etc., on any premises where food is manufactured, processed, served and stored. The revised draft invited comments from the WTO member countries. Currently, the comments received are under review by FSSAI.
- On July 6, 2018, the Indian Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQS) published on its website a memorandum listing low-phytosanitary risk processed food items. The memorandum repealed the clearance requirement from Plant Quarantine authorities and stated that effective immediately, no phytosanitary inspection would be required for these listed items (GAIN [IN8113](#)). Subsequently in 2019, the DPPQS revised the list to include processed soy fiber, hermetically packed.

### **Foods with Genetically Modified (GM) Ingredients**

On April 7, 2006, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) announced amendments to the Foreign Trade Policy (2004-2009) regulations, which included new requirements on imports of GM foods, food additives, or

any food products that contain GM ingredients. The DGFT mandates that importers of GM food and ingredients submit a declaration stating that the imported consignment contains GM products. The importer has to provide a reference to prior approval by India's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC); the reference should indicate a specific authorization number and date of the specified GM event in the consignment declaration. There is no official prescribed format for this declaration. Importers can be prosecuted for failure to properly declare a GM product. "The only GE food products currently authorized for import into India are soybean oil derived from GE soybeans (glyphosate tolerant and five other events) and canola oil derived from GE canola (a select herbicide tolerant event)." For more information on India's biotechnology import policy, please see the latest annual GAIN report on "[Agricultural Biotechnology 2018](#)." Also, please refer to notification [Number 2\(RE-2006\) / 2004-2009](#) from MOCI and the related GAIN Report [IN6030](#).

**Notes:**

On January 1, 2013, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution formally implemented the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules 2012 as published in the Gazette of India Notification No. G.S.R. 427(E), which stipulates that every package containing food derived from products of biotechnology shall bear at the top of its principal display panel the letters "GM" (GAIN [IN3003](#)).

**SECTION II. PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S)**

On July 19, 2016, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MOA) released a final notification S.O. 2453 E. One of the amendments introduced through this notification included waiving the requirement of import permits for a majority of plant commodities under PQ Order 2003. For phytosanitary requirements specific to any commodity, the exporter/shipper may refer to the referenced notification at: [http://plantquarantineindia.nic.in/PQISPub/html/PQO\\_amendments.htm#](http://plantquarantineindia.nic.in/PQISPub/html/PQO_amendments.htm#)

Imports of animals and animal products (including meat and meat products) are subject to a "Sanitary Import Permit" issued by MFAH&D's DAHD, per the conditions of the amended Livestock Importation Act 1898. The relevant authority in the country of export must issue a sanitary certificate based on the specific conditions as stated on the import permit. The import of live animals, germplasm, and other livestock products, that are categorized as restricted items under the GOI import policy, also require an import license from the MOCI's DGFT.

Several key trade restrictions limit market access for U.S. food products. Imports of most animal and livestock-derived food products are effectively banned because of established Indian import requirements. This includes dairy products classified in Chapters 2-5, 16 and 21 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, seafood, goat and pork products, and even pet foods. Imports of beef are banned due to religious concerns. Imports of alcoholic beverages

are constrained by high import tariffs, state and local taxes, state-level labeling requirements, and a complex licensing system for distribution and sales.

### **SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S)**

The attestations for all of the export certificates mentioned under Section I of this report must meet all the specific conditions, which vary from commodity to commodity, and can change over time.

### **SECTION IV. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE'S LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Original export certificates must accompany each individual export consignment at the time of entry into India. The GOI does not accept export self-declarations by suppliers or manufacturers as proof of compliance. However, in certain cases, the GOI may allow export certificates containing additional declarations on the import permit by organizations accredited by the government of the exporting country. The government of the exporting country must petition the MOA to get this special approval. Effective June 15, 2017, the DPPQS have started issuing digital phytosanitary certificates (e-phyto) to all countries in order to facilitate the ease of doing business in India, DPPQS issued a [Circular on July 18, 2017 to this effect.](#)

### **SECTION V. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS**

Apart from export certificates, products imported into India must also meet a number of other requirements. Details of the above-mentioned requirements are contained in the FAIRS report updated each year by this office, as well as subject reports, which can be accessed online at: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/>.

#### **Attachments:**

No Attachments