

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: March 02,2021

Report Number: IN2021-0034

Report Name: India - The FSSAI Issues Compliance Clarifications for its Genetically Modified-Free Certificate Order for Imported Food Products

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies, Exporter Guide, FAIRS Subject Report, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Agricultural Situation, Policy and Program Announcements, Agriculture in the News, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports, SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities

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Report Highlights:

On February 24, 2021, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published a clarification of acceptable certifying authority options for compliance with its Genetically Modified (GM)-Free certificate for imported food products. The FSSAI will now accept certificates issued under one of following options: (i) Non-GM origin cum GM-free attestation on the phytosanitary or the health certificate for each consignment provided all required information and declaration specified in the FSSAI's order of August 21, 2020, are included or (ii) Non-GM origin cum GM-Free certificate issued by authorized regional (i.e., state-level) government authorities of the exporting countries' in the specified format. A copy of the FSSAI clarification is included in this GAIN report.

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 U.S. Embassy in New Delhi – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), 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: Readers may use Google Chrome to access the links if they do not open in Internet Explorer].

General Information:

On February 24, 2021, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published a clarification of acceptable certifying authority options for compliance with its Genetically Modified (GM)-Free certificate for imported food products. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India will now accept certificates issued under one of following options:

- (i) Non-GM origin cum GM-free attestation on the phytosanitary or the health certificate for each consignment provided all required information and declaration specified in the FSSAI’s order of August 21, 2020, are included.
- (ii) Non-GM origin cum GM-Free certificate issued by authorized regional (i.e., state-level) government authorities of the exporting countries’ in the specified format.

For additional background information on the subject matter, see the following FAS/New Delhi GAIN reports:

[GAIN-INDIA \(IN2020-0108\) New Government of India Order Requires Genetically Modified-Free Certificate on Imported Food Products \(August 25, 2020\)](#)

[GAIN-INDIA \(IN2020-0111\) Update on GAIN Report IN2020-0108 Highlighting Details on New Government of India Order for Genetically Modified-Free Certificate on Imported Food Products \(August 28, 2020\)](#)

[GAIN-INDIA \(IN2020-0180\) India Extends Compliance Timeline for Genetically Modified –Free Certificate for Imported Food Products \(December 1, 2020\)](#)

[GAIN-INDIA \(IN2021-0026\) Clarifications on the FSSAI Genetically Modified-Free Certificate Order for Imported Food Products \(February 4, 2021\)](#)

The full text of the FSSAI clarification on the “Requirement of Non-GM origin cum GM free certificate to accompany imported food consignments – reg,” is found in Appendix I of this GAIN report, as well as is accessible on the FSSAI website located at:

https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2021/02/60388c51e2badClarification_GM_Food_26_02_2021.pdf.

APPENDIX I – FSSAI CLARIFICATION - REQUIREMENT OF NON-GM ORIGIN CUM GM FREE CERTIFICATE TO ACCOMPANY IMPORTED FOOD CONSIGNMENTS – REG.

File No. 1764/FSSAI/Imports/2019(Part-1)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A statutory authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)
(Imports division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110002

The 24th February, 2021

CLARIFICATION


Subject: Requirement of Non GM origin cum GM free certificate to accompany imported food consignments – reg.

With respect to FSSAI order dated 21.08.2020 and subsequent clarifications issued on 03.12.2020 and 08.02.2021 (**copy attached**) on the above cited subject, following is further clarified:

- (i) Non GM origin cum GM free attestation on phytosanitary/ health certificate for each consignment is also accepted provided it contains all the information and declaration as mentioned in the format issued by FSSAI vide order dated 21.08.2020.
- (ii) Non GM origin cum GM free certificate issued by authorized regional government authorities as per the prescribed format are accepted.

Further, it is also clarified that digital signatures on the above stated certificate are accepted.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


24/02/21
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To,
All Stakeholders

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Attachments:

No Attachments.