

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** November 23,2020

**Report Number:** IN2020-0166

**Report Name:** India Government Extends Timeline to Use Pre-printed Packaging Materials Stock

**Country:** India

**Post:** New Delhi

**Report Category:** Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Exporter Guide, FAIRS Subject Report, SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities, Food Processing Ingredients, Agriculture in the News, Agriculture in the Economy

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**Report Highlights:**

On October 28, 2020, the Government of India's (GOI) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution's Department of Legal Metrology, published an advisory to extend the timeline on the use of packaging material/wrapper with the pre-printed manufacturing date. The previously cutoff date of September 30, 2020, is now scheduled for implementation on March 31, 2021.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**DISCLAIMER:** The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution's Legal Metrology Division website <https://consumeraffairs.nic.in/organisation-and-units/division/legal-metrology/overview>. The FAS New Delhi - Office of Agricultural Affairs, USDA and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity.

The Government of India's Legal Metrology Division, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, issued an advisory to extend its timeline from September 30, 2020, on the implementation of "Rule 7" (Sub-rule 5-Principal Display Panel for labeling) of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Amendment) Rules, 2015. The extension's primary objective is to allow packaged food manufacturers to utilize their existing packaging material stocks, which could not otherwise be exhausted due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic outbreak.

The relaxation is specifically applicable for manufacturers or packers who declare the month and year of manufacturing/packing under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, by allowing them to utilize their existing packaging materials until March 31, 2021, or until such date the material is exhausted, whichever is earlier. However, the manufacturers/packers need to declare the correct month and year of manufacturing/packing on the packaged food products by either stamping, by using a sticker or printed online.

The Legal Metrology Division has provided many consecutive extensions since its 2017 amendments to the Legal Metrology Rules. Interested readers may go to the [USDA Global Agriculture Information Network \(GAIN\)](#) and find similar reports such as [GAIN-INDIA \(IN7086\) India - 2017 Amendments to Legal Metrology Rules \(July 13, 2017\)](#).

The full text of the Legal Metrology Division's current advisory is included below.

Speed Post

**I-10/22/2020-W&M**

Government of India  
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
Legal Metrology Division

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated: 28.10.2020

To,  
The Controllers of Legal Metrology,  
All States/ UTs

**Subject:** Extension of period up to 31.03.2021 for utilisation of the pre-printed packing material stock due to prevalent situation of COVID-19 - reg.

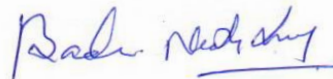
Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to the above-mentioned subject and to state that due to prevalent condition of COVID-19, leading to the lockdown of the whole country the manufacturing activities were stopped. Consequently, the inventory of packaging material / wrapper with pre-printed date of manufacturing could not be exhausted within the time limit prescribed under the Rules.

2. Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by rule 33(1) and 6(1)(B) of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, the Central Government hereby permits the manufacturers or packers to utilise the existing packaging material / wrapper up to 31.03.2021 or till such date the packaging material / wrapper is exhausted, whichever is earlier, by declaring the correct month & year of manufacturing/ packing on the pre-packaged commodities by way of stamping or putting sticker or online printing, as the case may be.

3. This relaxation will be applicable to those manufacturers or packers who have to declare the month & year of manufacturing/ packing under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

Yours faithfully



(B. N. Dixit)

Director of Legal Metrology

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**Copy to:** All Industries/ Industry Associations/ Stake Holders

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.