

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** February 17,2021

**Report Number:** IN2021-0026

**Report Name:** India - Clarifications on the FSSAI 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, Agriculture in the News, SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities, Policy and Program Announcements, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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**Approved By:** Mariano Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

**Report Highlights:**

On February 8, 2021, the Government of India's Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) clarified that the implementation of the requirement for a Genetically Modified-Free Certificate for imported food products will apply to all consignments with a bill of lading dated March 1, 2021, and or after. The clarification further informs stakeholders about the permissible tolerance limit for the adventitious presence of genetically modified organisms (i.e., genetically engineered) at one percent. Earlier in its order of August 21, 2020, the FSSAI listed 24 food crops in Annexure 1 that are subject to this requirement.

**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 8, 2021, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published the clarification that its implementation of the requirement for a Genetically Modified-Free Certificate for imported food products will apply to all consignments that are shipped from the exporting country's port with a bill of lading dated on and or after March 1, 2021. The clarification also stipulates the permissible tolerance limit for adventitious presence of genetically modified organisms (i.e., genetically engineered) at one percent (see, Appendix I - FSSAI Clarification – Requirement of Non-GM cum GM-Free Certificate to Accompany Imported Food Consignments – Reg., February 8, 2021).

For additional background, please refer to 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 \(December 1, 2020\).](#)

**APPENDIX I – FSSAI Clarification – Requirement of Non-GM cum GM-Free Certificate to Accompany Imported Food Consignments – Reg., February 8, 2021**

F. No. 1764/FSSAI/Imp/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 08<sup>th</sup> February, 2021


**CLARIFICATION**

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

With respect to order dated 21.08.2020 and 03.12.2020 (**copy attached**) on the above cited subject, following is clarified:

- (i) The requirement of Non GM cum GM free certificate is applicable to consignments which are despatched from exporting country on or after 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021.
- (ii) The tolerance limit for adventitious presence (AP) of GMOs at 1% is permissible in imported food crop consignments as listed in Annexure 1 of the order dated 21.08.2020.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(Dr. Amit Sharma)<sup>8/2/21</sup>  
Director (Import)  
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To,  
All Stakeholders

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.