

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: August 26,2020

Report Number: IN2020-0108

Report Name: New Government of India Order Requires Genetically Modified-Free Certificate on 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

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Report Highlights:

On August 21, 2020, the Government of India's Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) modified Section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 mandating that effective January 1, 2021, specific food product imports (fruits, vegetables and grains) into India identified in Annex-I must be accompanied by a certificate which states that the product is of non-GM origin and does not contain genetically modified organisms and also not genetically modified, to be issued by competent authority from the exporting country. On August 26, FSSAI further clarified verbally that the order does not apply to processed food products prepared with any of the specific commodities listed in Annex-I. However, FSSAI did not confirm whether the regulation applies to any listed commodities imported for animal feed.

General Information:

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/> and from follow-up verbal consultations with FSSAI officials. The Office of Agricultural Affairs, USDA and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity.

On August 21, 2020, FSSAI issued an order modifying Section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 stating that all food consignments specified in Annex-I attached to the order must include a certificate attesting that it is of non-GM origin and GM-free. Annex-I of the order lists several GM crops grown globally, including alfalfa, apples, eggplant, vegetable bean, maize, wheat, melon, pineapple, papaya, plum, potato, rice, soybean, safflower, sugarcane, tomato and sweet pepper, among others. The order states that the certificate should be issued by a competent authority of the exporting country and is effective January 1, 2021. On August 26, 2020, FSSAI clarified verbally that the order does not apply to processed food products prepared with any of the specific commodities listed in Annex-I, but did not confirm if the regulation applies to any listed commodities imported as animal feed.

The full text of the FSSAI order is shown below and is available on FSSAI's website at:

https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/08/5f3fb6de8a4f1Order_GM_Food_21_08_2020.pdf

1-1764/FSSAI/Imports/2018(Part-1)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110 002

Dated, the 21st August, 2020

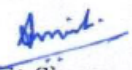
ORDER

Subject: Requirement of Non-GM cum GM free certificate accompanied with imported food consignment-reg.

Sub-regulation 12(2) of Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017 specifies that "the Food Authority may issue order or advisory or guideline as it deems fit, from time to time for ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of articles of food imported into India and such prohibitions and restrictions shall be informed to the customs immediately".

2. In exercise of above said provision, to ensure that only Non GM food crops are imported into India, pending framing of regulations related to Genetically Engineered or Modified as envisaged in section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, it has been decided that every consignment of imported food products mentioned in Annexure - I shall be accompanied with a Non-GM origin cum GM free certificate as per format of Annexure-II, issued by Competent National Authority of the exporting country.

3. This order shall be effective from 1st January, 2021 and this issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Dr. Amit Sharma)
Director, Imports
FSSAI, HQ

Annexure 1

| Sr. No. | Crops |
|---------|--|
| 1. | Alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i>) |
| 2. | Apple (<i>Malus x Domestica</i>) |
| 3. | Argentina Canola (<i>Brassica napus</i>) |
| 4. | Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>) |
| 5. | Chicory (<i>Cichorium intybus</i>) |
| 6. | Cowpea (<i>Vigna unguiculate</i>) |
| 7. | Egg Plant (Brinjal) <i>Solanum melanogoa</i> |
| 8. | Flax seed <i>Linum usitatissimum L</i> |
| 9. | Maize (<i>Zea mays</i>) |
| 10. | Melon (<i>Cucumis melo</i>) |
| 11. | Papaya (<i>Carica papaya</i>) |
| 12. | Pineapple (<i>Ananas comosus</i>) |
| 13. | Plum (<i>Prunus domestica</i>) |
| 14. | Polish canola (<i>Brassica rapa</i>) |
| 15. | Potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>) |
| 16. | Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>) |
| 17. | Safflower <i>Carthamus tinctorius L</i> |
| 18. | Soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>) |
| 19. | Squash (<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>) |
| 20. | Sugar beet (<i>Beta vulgaris</i>) |
| 21. | Sugarcane (<i>Saccharum sp</i>) |
| 22. | Sweet pepper (<i>Capsicum annuum</i>) |
| 23. | Tomato <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> |
| 24. | Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) |

Attachments:

No Attachments.