

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 2/6/2013

GAIN Report Number: IN3007

India

Post: New Delhi

Clearance Procedures for Imported Alcoholic Beverages

Report Categories:

Beverages

FAIRS Subject Report

Wine

Exporter Guide

Approved By:

David Leishman

Prepared By:

Shubhi Mishra

Report Highlights:

On January 23, 2013, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) announced a further extension on the labeling requirement for imported alcoholic beverages (referencing letter no.1/2008/Import Safety/ FSSAI).

General Information:

Introduction: Following the May 20, 2011 extension on the labeling requirement for imported alcoholic beverages, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has just announced a further extension allowing for the correction of minor labeling “defects” at the customs warehouse under the supervision of the customs department. This policy will remain in effect until further official notice. The FSSAI labeling guideline enables Indian alcoholic beverages importers to correct labeling inconsistencies on arrival, prior to officially clearing customs.

Disclaimer: This report presents the link to the subject announcement and therefore should not under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests.

Important Dates:

Publication Date: January 23, 2013

Notification to the WTO: Not notified to date.

Effective Date: January 23, 2013

Products Affected: Alcoholic Beverages

Agency in Charge: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, GOI

See text as attached:

1/2008/Import Safety/FSSAI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road,
New Delhi – 110002

Dated: 23rd January, 2013

Subject: Ad-hoc guidelines for Alcoholic Beverages related to Imported Food Clearance Process by FSSAI's Authorized Officers-Reg.

In continuation of letter of even no. dated 20th May, 2011 and subsequent extension^s issued on the subject mentioned above, the undersigned is directed to refer the above mentioned subject and to convey herewith the following instructions for compliance till further orders.

1. The exemption provided in FSS (Labelling and Packaging) regulations, 2011 regarding declaration of best before date for consumption, is applicable only in case of

(i) wines and liquors

(ii) alcoholic beverages containing 10 percent or more by volume of alcohol.

However, the above exemption will not be applicable in case of wines labelled as Non-alcoholic/De-alcoholised wine and declaration of best before date for consumption shall be applicable in such circumstances.

And also, Declaration of veg/non-veg logo on the label shall not apply in respect of alcoholic drinks.

2. Clearance of imported alcoholic beverages may be considered as per usual procedure subject to the condition that **minor labelling defects viz.** Name and address of the importer is a rectifiable defect and is allowed to be affixed in custom bound warehouse as per the advisory issued vide letter No. 1-17/FSSAI/T/2012 (Part J) dated 23rd March, 2012.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,


(M.K. Singh)
Assistant Director

To:

FSSAI's all Authorized Officers

Copy to:

1. Advisor (S)
2. Dir (E), FSSAI
3. Dir (S), FSSAI
4. Dir (QA & S)
5. FSSAI Website

Copy for information:

PPS to Chairperson, FSSAI