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## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### GOI Releases Draft Health Certificate for Dog and Cat Food Imports

**Report Categories:**

Livestock and Products  
Trade Policy Monitoring  
FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries, Government of India, published a revised draft veterinary health certificate for dog and cat food imports. To date, this draft veterinary health certificate has not been notified to the World Trade Organization for comment.

## General Information:

**Disclaimer:** The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Government of India (GOI) and World Trade Organization (WTO) websites: <http://dahd.nic.in/dahd/trade.aspx> and [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org). The Office of Agricultural Affairs and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The summary below is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and, therefore, should not under any circumstances be viewed as a definitive interpretation of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural trade interests.

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries, Government of India, published a draft veterinary health certificate for dog and cat food (containing animal origin material) imports. This revised draft certificate introduces some new language and requirements in comparison to the earlier protocol. For example, the draft certificate specifically requires imported pet food to be manufactured from certain animal meat / products and specifies that ingredients cannot include animal meat that is prohibited under any Indian law. Other modifications or additions include new heat treatment processing guidelines, specifying the ports that can accept imported pet food, new testing requirements for sulphite reduced clostridium for canned and moist pet food, and manufacturer/exporter declarations. The new draft certificate removed the earlier requirement that a processing facility needed to be located 25 km radius from an avian influenza infected area. To date, this draft veterinary health certificate has not been notified to the WTO for comment.

Details on the published certificate:

Type of Regulation: Draft

GOI Draft Publication Date: October 26, 2015

WTO Notification Date: Not notified (as of December 9, 2015)

Date of Implementation: To be determined

Products Affected: Dog and Cat Food

Agency in charge: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries,  
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Government of India (GOI)

The health certificate is accessible online at <http://dahd.nic.in/dahd/trade.aspx> or can be directly accessed at [Veterinary Certificate for Import of Dog and Cat Foods into India](#).

**VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR IMPORT OF DOG AND CAT FOODS INTO INDIA  
(Containing Animal Origin Material)**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR IMPORTATION**

1. Consignor (name and address in full)	2. Health certificate  No: _____ Date: _____
3. Consignee (name and address in full):	4. Country of origin
5. Competent Authority  5.1 Ministry: 5.2 Department	6. Place of loading:
7. Quantity (in words and figures): 7.1. Number of packs: 7.2 Net weight:	8. Consignment identification details (Batch number of the product/s)
9. Address of pet food manufacturing plant:	10.1. Destination country: 10.2. Final destination (name and address)
11. Registration/ Accreditation/ Approval number(s) of the manufacturing plant  (Number/ Date/ Validity)	12. Mode of Transport:
13. Name and address of the Registration/ Accreditation/ Approving authority	Sanitary Import Permit No.: Date and Validity.

***N.B.***

(a) A separate certificate must be provided for each consignment of dog and cat foods transported in the same aircraft, railway wagon, lorry or ship and consigned to the same destination.

(b) The original certificate must accompany the consignment until it reaches the border inspection post.

(c) The certificate must be completed for each consignment prior to loading of dog and cat food in the foreign port of shipment and validity of the certificate shall be indicated referring the date.

(d) The consignment will not be permitted into India in the event of the same arriving in the country either in an unsealed container or in a container with broken seal or with evidence of contamination with risk material or with inadequate certification.

(e) Import of dog and cat food is allowed only through sea and airport of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

## **1 DECLARATION FROM THE MANUFACTURER/EXPORTER**

- (i) The exporter will give a declaration that he has maintained traceability records of the slaughter houses from where the meat has been sourced.
- (ii) The certificate bearing the batch number of the product, to which the declaration applies, must be pasted in indelible ink on each container.
- (iii) Import of beef in India is prohibited by notification, therefore, a certificate must be provided by the manufacturer/exporter to the effect that the dog/cat food does not contain beef/beef tallow/ beef flavor originated from beef/ any kind of bovine tissue in any form.
- (iv) The manufacturing plant is liable for verification/inspection by the Officials of the Government of India if any doubt arises in respect of the above declaration by the manufacturer.

## **SANITARY INFORMATION**

The undersigned official veterinarian certifies that the pet food described above:

- i) originates from:
  - meat/meat products of healthy poultry.
  - meat/meat products of healthy lamb, sheep, goat and pig.
  - Fish and fish products(please tick appropriately)
- ii) originates from meat/meat products of animals and complies the following:
  - The sourced animals have undergone ante-mortem and post-mortem examinations.
  - The meat has been obtained from healthy animals.
- iii) It is the one with no ingredients of specific risk materials from ruminant origin as defined by OIE have been incorporated (in the pet food product of ruminant origin), except for the following, namely:
  - (a) milk / milk products
  - (b) protein-free tallow of ovine or caprine origin; and
  - (c) If the ovine or caprine materials or ingredients are included in the dog and cat food that has to be imported from countries free from TSE group of diseases.The following information shall be provided:
  - (i) Details of origin of ovine and caprine ingredients;
  - (ii) Certificate Number
  - (iii) Country of origin
  - (iv) Name of Animal Health Authority issuing Certificate for ingredients; and
  - (v) Date of endorsement of the Certificate

(d) The dog and cat food has been processed in any of the following heat treatment:

- (i) at 90 degree centigrade throughout its substance of the final product
- (ii) undergone heat treatment at 90 degree centigrade of its animal origin materials, or
- (iii) have been processed at a temperature to attain  $F_0$  value not less than 3.0 or
- (iv) have been processed at a temperature to attain  $F_c$  value not less than 3.0 or

iv) before actual dispatch of dog and cat food to India the product was examined by a random sampling of at least five samples from each processed batch taken during or after storage at the processing plant, and test results shows that-;

- Facultative aerobic micro-organisms are not more than  $5 \times 10^3$  per gram/per milliliter of sample,
- no Salmonella in 25 gram or 25 ml of sample,
- sulphite reduced clostridium per gram/ per milliliter of sample was not more than  $5 \times 10^3$  (in case of canned and moist food)
- activity of water in dehydrated products must not be higher than 0.93 or adequately dried to prevent microbiological growth mentioned above (in case of dry food)

v) was not produced from:

- animals kept for agricultural production, which died but were not slaughtered, including stillborn and unborn animals, and, without prejudice to instances of emergency slaughtering for reasons of welfare, and farm animals that have died in transit,
- animals which were killed in the context of disease control measures either on the farm or in any other place designated by the competent authority,
- animal waste, including blood originating from animals which showed, during veterinary inspection carried out at the time of slaughtering, clinical signs of disease communicable to man or other animals,
- those parts of animals slaughtered in the normal way which were not presented for post mortem inspection, with the exception of hides, skins, hooves, feathers, wool, horn, blood and similar products,
- meat, poultry meat, fish and foodstuffs of animal origin which were spoiled
- animal waste containing residues of substance which posed a danger to human or animal health, milk, meat or products of animal origin rendered unfit for human consumption by the presence of such residues,
- fish or offal from fish which was excluded from human consumption because of clinical signs of an infectious disease,
- processed animal protein derived from high risk material.

- Using meat of animals which are prohibited by any Indian law for international trade,
- vi) has undergone all precautions to avoid recontamination with pathogenic agents after treatment,
- vii) was packed in new packaging material.
- viii) the containers of pet food are sealed properly.

Signature .....

Date .....

Official Stamp

**Official Government Veterinarian**

Name: .....  
 Address: .....  
 Registration No.: .....  
 Email: .....  
 Phone:.....

**POST IMPORT REQUIREMENTS:**

**I. DOCUMENTATION FOR IMPORTATION**

1. The following documents must accompany and be produced to the Quarantine Officer at the port of entry:
  - (i) A valid copy of the Sanitary import permit issued by the Government of India.
  - (ii) Animal health certificate, in original, issued by the official veterinarian of the exporting country.
2. On arrival, the samples may be drawn for testing of the materials for microbiological criteria as mentioned above.
3. On import into India, the random samples may be taken from the pet food and sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Disease (NIHSAD, Bhopal for testing against exotic diseases. In case of positive findings, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Government of India shall take appropriate action at the cost of the importing agency.

**II. Undertaking/ Declaration from the importer :**

- a) The imported product shall not find way into animal food chain other than for feeding of dogs and cats,
- b) Left over product shall be disposed off properly;
- c). The labeling of the products should be done in local/regional language.