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## **India**

**Post:** New Delhi

### **FSSAI Notifies Tolerance Limits for Additional Antibiotics**

**Report Categories:**

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Exporter Guide

FAIRS Subject Report

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

Dairy and Products

Fishery Products

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**Report Highlights:**

India notified the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations 2018, relating to the tolerance limits of antibiotics and other veterinary drugs in meat and meat products, poultry, fish, and milk.

## **General Information:**

**DISCLAIMER:** The information contained in this report was retrieved from The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) website <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>. The Office of Agricultural Affairs, USDA, and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity.

On August 1, 2018, FSSAI amended the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 to include new tolerance limits for 103 antibiotics and other veterinary drugs in meat and meat products, poultry, fish and milk. The new provisions specify tolerance limits for 76 antibiotics at 0.01 mg/kg of the listed food; these antibiotics are either prohibited or not intended for use in food producing animals. The amendment also includes revisions to the prohibited list of antibiotics and veterinary drugs related to meat and meat products, poultry and eggs, and sea foods including shrimp, prawns, or any variety of fish and fishery products. The list includes, for example, Nitrofurans, Chloramphenicol, Metronidazole, Carbadox. The extraneous maximum residue limit of 0.001 mg/kg is applicable for all drugs on the list except Chloramphenicol, for which the limit is 0.0003 mg/kg. FSSAI also notes that even trace amounts of the above-mentioned antibiotics in food is unacceptable from the food safety point of view.

The said amendments will come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette of India. The food business operators will need to comply with the new provisions by January 1, 2019.

The full text of the FSSAI notification is pasted below and is also available on FSSAI's website <http://fssai.gov.in/>

## **Press note**

### **Tolerance limit of antibiotics and other drugs in veterinary use in food products of animal origin**

Uncontrolled presence of residues of antibiotics and other drugs in food, as a result of their use in food producing animals, has the potential to pose a threat to human health and also lead to the development of **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** among disease causing bacteria.

Therefore, FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2018 specifying 'Tolerance Limits' of antibiotics and other veterinary drugs in meat/meat products, poultry, fish and milk.

Through this amendment notification, the existing regulations have been further expanded to include new tolerance limits for 103 antibiotics and veterinary drugs in meat/meat products (including poultry and fish) and milk.

Among the new provisions, tolerance limits for 76 antibiotics (These are either prohibited or not-intended for use in food producing animals) have been specified at 0.01 mg/kg of the listed food and largely reflects the level of detection of such antibiotics/drugs by existing method of analysis.

The amendment notification also includes revisions to the prohibited list of antibiotics and veterinary drugs applicable to meat and meat products, and poultry and eggs, sea foods including shrimps, prawns or any variety of fish and fishery products (e.g. Nitrofurans, Chloramphenicol, Metronidazole, Carbadox etc.). The Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit of 0.001 mg/kg will be applicable except for Chloramphenicol for which it will be 0.0003 mg/Kg. This means that mere detection of these antibiotics in the food is unacceptable from food safety point of view.

The revised/ new provisions pertaining to the tolerance limits of antibiotics and veterinary drugs, being in alignment with the international best practices, are intended to address the food safety concerns in foods of animal origin, whether consumed domestically or in the countries of export.

These regulations will come into force from the date of their publication in the Gazette. However, food business operators are required to comply with these new/revised provisions by 1st January, 2019.