

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### **Modified Guidelines on Labeling of Imported Primary Food Packages**

**Report Categories:**

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Exporter Guide

Tree Nuts

Grain and Feed

Fresh Fruit

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and  
Standards - Narrative

**Approved By:**

Lisa Ahramjian

**Prepared By:**

Radha Mani

**Report Highlights:**

On August 9, 2016, the Government of India's (GOIs) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued new guidelines to modify its earlier guidelines dated March 23, 2012, on the labeling requirements for imported primary food packages.

## General Information:

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

### Background:

On March 23, 2012, FSSAI published “guidelines related to food import clearance process by FSSAI’s Authorized Officer,” on its website. These guidelines elaborated the labeling requirements of different kinds of packages of food consignments imported into India. The different categories of packages mentioned in the guidelines were: (1) Pre-packaged food or pre-packed food including multi-piece packages; (2) Wholesale packages (including semi-finished/intermediary food products which will be further processed to make final product and packed as pre-packaged or pre-packed food); (3) Primary food like food grains, pulses, fruits, dry fruits, whole spices, etc., imported in package; and (4) Primary food like food grains, pulses, fruits, whole spices, etc. imported in loose in bulk. For more details on the guidelines, please refer to GAIN report [IN2055](#).

The new guidelines, as published on FSSAI website on August 9, 2016, modified the labeling requirements for category 3 above. Specifically, the new guidelines state that for all primary food products, such as food grains, pulses, fruits, dry fruits, whole spices, etc. imported in package, the name and address of the importer can be verified from the documents that accompany the consignment. The labeling requirements for such products have been revised and will now require the following details:

- Name of Food
- Name and complete address of the manufacturer/packer
- Date of Manufacture/packing
- Net weight
- Lot number/Code number/Batch number
- Best before or use by date or date of expiry
- Country of Origin
- FSSAI logo and license number (as a rectifiable label, which can also be applied upon arrival)

As per the guidelines, a timeline of six months is allowed for the compliance of modified labeling requirements.

The full text of the new guidelines is pasted below and can be accessed from the website of FSSAI at: [www.fssai.gov.in](http://www.fssai.gov.in).

File No.1-1570/FSSAI/Imports/2015  
**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**  
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)  
(Imports Division)  
**FDA Bhavan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110 002**

Dated, the August, 2016

**Subject: Guidelines related to Food Import Clearance Process by FSSAI's Authorized Officers -reg.**

In partial modification to the guidelines issued by FSSAI vide F.No.1-17/FSSAI/T/2010 (Part J) dated 23.03.2012 regarding labelling requirement of primary food like food grains, pulses, fruits, dry fruits, whole spices etc. imported in package, it is clarified that name and address of the importer can be verified from accompanying documents of the consignment.

In addition to earlier mandatory requirements for primary food imported in package i.e. name of food, name and complete address of the manufacturer/ packer and date of Packing/Manufacture, following may also be mentioned on the package:-

1. Net weight
2. Lot no. / Code No. /Batch No.
3. Best before or use by date or date of expiry

A period of six months is given for compliance. This issues with the approval of competent Authority.

*Bimal*  
**(Bimal Kumar Dubey)**  
Director (Imports)

To:

1. Sh. Anil Mehta, Authorized Officer, First Floor, NBCC Place, Bhisham Pitamah Marg, Pragati Vihar, New Delhi-110003
2. Sh. V.K. Pancham, Authorized Officer (JNPT), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Unit No.902, 9th Floor, Hall Mark, Business Plaza, Opposite Guru Nanak Hospital, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
3. Sh. Prasenjeet G. Gaikwad, Authorized Officer (Mumbai Airport Sea Port), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Unit No.902, 9th Floor, Hall Mark, Business Plaza, Opposite Guru Nanak Hospital, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
4. Sh. D. P. Guha, Authorized Officer/Joint Director, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Benfish Tower, 6th floor,31 G N Block, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091
5. Ms. K. K. Jitha, Authorized Officer, Chennai Sea Port and Airport Food Safety and Standard Authority of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Central Documentation Complex, (South Wing), Chennai Port Trust, Rajaji Salai, Chennai-600001.
6. Dr. Jesto George, Authorized Officer, Food Safety and Standard Authority of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, First Floor, Marine Building, Malabar Road, North End, Willigton Island, Cochin - 682009 Kerala
7. Sh. Zubair Riaz, Director (Customs), R.No.159A, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, North Block, New Delhi-110001
8. CITO, FSSAI for publication on the FSSAI Website.