



FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS
AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India



Food Safety & Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017 - Key Highlights

FSSAI has integrated its Food Import Clearance System (FICS) with ICEGATE system (Indian Customs and Central Excise Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway) of Customs under Single Window Clearance Interface to Facilitate Trade (SWIFT) at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin and Tuticorin ports. To minimise the sampling size and time and hence to expedite the clearance process of imports in line of ease of doing business, risk based sampling system called Risk Management System (RMS) has been introduced under Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) by Department of Customs. Due to electronic process clearance time of imported food consignments has been reduced from about 12 days to nearly 8 days.

Some of the broad level import regulations which may be relevant for new investors in India, who may choose begin operations by first importing their signature products.

- » No imports of food article are permitted in India without an import license from the Central Licensing Authority and with remain shelf life of minimum 60% at the time of import.
- » These regulations shall not apply to any person bringing in any article of food for his personal use provided that the value of such article of food shall not exceed the amount as allowed by custom from time to time.
- » In case of imported packaged food consignments, the following special dispensation on labeling shall be allowed for the rectification at the custom bound warehouse by affixing a single non detachable sticker or by any other no detachable method next to the principle display panel namely: —
 - a) Name and address of the importer;
 - b) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's Logo and license number,
 - c) Non-Veg or Veg Logo
 - d) Category or sub category along with generic name, nature and composition for proprietary food

FSSAI NOC is exempted for imported food in following conditions by submitting an undertaking:

- a) Articles of food imported for personal consumption
 - b) Imported food consignment meant for Display Purpose in Trade Fair/Exhibition
 - c) Imported food consignment meant for Research & Development purposes
 - d) Imported food consignment meant Sports Events
 - e) Imported food consignment meant 100% Export and Re-export
- » The imported consignments of food items having shelf life of less than 7 days and the food which require special storage conditions shall be issued Provisional NOC, without waiting for the analysis report from lab on the basis of an undertaking from the Importer as prescribed by FSSAI.
 - » Importer can apply for retest if the sample is found Non-Conforming to the FSS Standards by the primary laboratory.
 - » Food Authority may review the risks associated with articles of food imports from time to time and adopt a risk-based framework and risk based inspection process for clearance of imported articles of food or even include them in the prohibited items list.

The detailed list of regulations are available at the website of FSSAI

<http://www.fssai.gov.in/home/fss-legislation/fss-regulations.html>