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## India

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### Implementation Begins for Draft Standards on Food Additives

**Report Categories:**

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Exporter Guide

Trade Policy Monitoring

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**Report Highlights:**

On December 23, 2015, the Government of India's (GOI) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published an interim order to immediately implement updated draft standards of food additives. These standards are in addition to the provisions under Regulation 3.1 of the [Food Safety and Standards \(Food Product Standards and Food Additives\) Regulation, 2011](#).

Interested parties may wish to review the draft document dated July 23, 2015, from FSSAI's website (link below), as well as review this updated order. Note that Appendix A lists the specific revised additives.

## General Information:

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**Background:** On July 23, 2015, FSSAI published the [Food Safety and Standards \(Food Products Standards and Food Additives\) Amendment Regulations, 2015](#), pertaining to standards for food additives (See GAIN [IN5096](#)). FSSAI drafted these standards in an effort to harmonize India's food additive standards with Codex Alimentarius. Full implementation was scheduled to start as of the ensuing January 1 or July 1 of the year, as the case may be, subject to a minimum of 180 days from the date of final notification of the regulations in the Official Gazette.

On August 5, 2015, India notified the draft regulation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) (WTO Notification Number: G/SPS/N/IND/108). The subsequent comment period for trading partners ended on October 4, 2015. (See GAIN [IN5108](#)).

A side-by-side comparison of the two documents (July 23, 2015 and December 23, 2015) reveals revisions to the list of additives in Appendix A. For example, revisions made under Table 14 regarding the 'Use of Food Additives in Beverages' are provided below:

1. Food additives such as Sorbic Acid, Sodium Sorbate, Potassium Sorbate and Calcium Sorbate have been clubbed into one category as *Sorbates* for grape wine and wine other than grape; mead; and aromatized alcoholic beverages.
2. Minor revisions made for aromatized alcoholic beverages (e.g. beer, wine, and spirituous cooler-type beverages, low alcoholic refreshers) and are noted below:
  - a) Food additives such as sodium benzoate, potassium benzoate, calcium benzoate have been deleted. However, Benzoic acid still exists with recommended maximum level of 600 mg/kg.
  - b) Food additives Calcium disodium ethylenediaminetetraacetate and disodium ethylenediaminetetraacetate have been grouped as EDTA.
  - c) Ethyl para-hydroxybenzoate and Methyl para-hydroxybenzoate have been grouped as Hydroxybenzoates, para.
  - d) Various categories of riboflavins and saccharins have been grouped as one category 'Riboflavins' and 'Saccharins'.

Interested parties may wish to review the draft document dated July 23, 2015 (link above), as well as review this updated order. A full text of the [FSSAI Interim Order](#) dated December 23, 2015 can be accessed on FSSAI's website <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>