

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India

Post: New Delhi

WTO Notified - Irradiated Foods Standards and Labeling Requirements

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety
Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and
Standards - Narrative
Exporter Guide
Fresh Fruit
Vegetables
Grain and Feed
Tree Nuts
Oilseeds and Products
Fishery Products
Poultry and Products
Coffee
Food Processing Ingredients

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Report Highlights:

On January 4, 2016, India notified its draft regulation related to standards and labeling requirements for irradiated foods to the World Trade Organization (WTO) for comments. The comment period for trading partners expires on March 4, 2016.

General Information:

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

On November 23, 2015, GOI's Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) amended the [Food Safety and Standards \(Food Products Standards and Food Additives\) Regulations, 2011](#), to update standards and labeling requirements for irradiated foods. On January 4, 2016, the amended draft regulation was notified to WTO for comments. The comment period for trading partners expires on March 4, 2016.

(a) Regulation 2.13 of the [Food Safety and Standards \(Food Products Standards and Food Additives\) Regulations, 2011](#), relating to "Irradiation of Food" has been updated. The updated draft regulation as published on FSSAI's website is pasted below.

(b) Sub-Regulation 2.4.4 of the [Food Safety and Standards \(Packaging and Labeling\) Regulations, 2011](#), relating to labeling of irradiated foods has been deleted. Sub-Regulation 2.4.5 relating to "specific labeling requirements of other products" is now numbered as 2.4.4.

Comments should be sent to:

The Chief Executive Officer
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
3rd Floor, Food and Drug Administration Bhawan, Kotla Road
New Delhi – 110002
Email: baranip@yahoo.com

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

Type of Regulation: Draft

Publication date on the FSSAI website: November 23, 2015

Date of Implementation: To be determined

WTO Notification Number: SPS/N/IND/123

WTO Notification Date: January 4, 2016

Final date for comments: March 4, 2016

Products Affected: Fruits and vegetables, cereals, pulses, nuts, oilseeds, dried fruits, seafood (fresh or frozen), meat products including poultry (fresh and frozen) and eggs, seasonings, spices, condiments, dry herbs, tea, coffee, cocoa, plant products, ethnic foods, military rations, space foods, ready-to-eat, ready-to-cook and minimally processed foods, food additives, health foods, dietary supplements and nutraceuticals.

Agency in Charge: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, GOI

Notice calling for suggestions, views, comments etc from WTO-SPS Committee Members within a period of 60 days on the proposed standards on Irradiation of Foods

3. In the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, for regulation 2.13 relating to "Irradiation of Food", the following regulation shall be substituted, namely:

"2.13 RADIATION PROCESSING OF FOOD

2.13.1: Dose of Radiation -

- (1) Save as provided in clause (2) of sub-regulation 2.13.1, no food shall be processed by radiation.
- (2) No article of food permitted for radiation processing specified in the Table 1 and Table 2 given below shall receive the dose of radiation in excess of the quantity specified in the said Tables at the time of radiation processing -

Table 1: Classes of Food Products and Dose Limits for Radiation Processing

Class	Food	Purpose	Dose Limit kGy (kilo Gray)	
			Minimum	Maximum
1	2	3	4	5
Class 1	Bulbs, stem and root tubers and rhizomes	Inhibit sprouting	0.02	0.2
Class 2	Fresh fruits and vegetables (other than Class 1)	Delay ripening	0.2	1.0
		Insect disinfestation	0.2	1.0
		Shelf -life extension	1.0	2.5
		Quarantine application	0.1	1.0
Class 3	Cereals and their milled products, pulses and their milled products, nuts, oil seeds, dried fruits and their products	Insect disinfestation	0.25	1.0
		Reduction of microbial load	1.5	5.0
Class 4	Fish, aquaculture, seafood and their products (fresh or frozen) and crustaceans	Elimination of pathogenic micro organisms	1.0	7.0
		Shelf -life extension	1.0	3.0
		Control of human parasites	0.3	2.0

Class	Food	Purpose	Dose Limit kGy (kilo Gray)	
			Minimum	Maximum
1	2	3	4	5
Class 5	Meat and meat products including poultry (fresh and frozen) and eggs	Elimination of pathogenic microorganisms	1.0	7.0
		Shelf-life extension	1.0	3.0
		Control of human parasites	0.3	2.0
Class 6	Dry vegetables, seasonings, spices, condiments, dry herbs and their products, tea, coffee, cocoa and plant products	Microbial decontamination	6.0	14.0
		Insect disinfestation	0.3	1.0
Class 7	Dried foods of animal origin and their products	Insect disinfestation	0.3	1.0
		Control of moulds	1.0	3.0
		Elimination of pathogenic micro organisms	2.0	7.0
Class 8	Ethnic foods, military rations, space foods, ready-to-eat, ready-to-cook/ minimally processed foods.	Quarantine application	0.25	1.0
		Reduction of microbial load	2.0	10.0
		Sterilisation	5.0	25.0

Table 2: Dose Limits for Radiation Processing of Allied Products

Sr. No.	Allied Product	Purpose	Dose Limit kGy (kiloGray)	
			Minimum	Maximum
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Packaging materials for food or allied products	Microbial decontamination	5.0	10.0
		Sterilisation	10.0	25.0
2.	Food additives	Insect disinfestation	0.25	1.0
		Microbial decontamination	5.0	10.0
		Sterilisation	10.0	25.0
3.	Health foods, dietary supplements and nutraceuticals	Insect disinfestation	0.25	1.0
		Microbial decontamination	5.0	10.0
		Sterilisation	10.0	25.0

- (3) Routine quantitative dosimetry shall be carried out during operation and record kept of such measurements as provided under Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food and Allied Products) Rules, 2012.

2.13.2: Requirement for Radiation Processing:

- (1) Approval of facilities - No irradiation facility shall be used for the treatment of food unless such facility -
 - (i) has been approved and licensed under the Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food and Allied Products) Rules, 2012.
 - (ii) complies with the conditions for approval, operation, license and process control prescribed under the Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food and Allied Products) Rules, 2012.
 - (iii) carries out irradiation in accordance with the provisions of the Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food and Allied Products) Rules, 2012.
- (2) No food or irradiated food shall leave the irradiation facility unless it has been irradiated in accordance with the provisions of Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food and Allied Products) Rules, 2012 and a certificate of irradiation indicating the dose of irradiation and the purpose of irradiation is provided by the facility.

2.13.3: Restrictions on Radiation Processing of Food -

- (1) The radiation processing shall conform to the dose limit, the radiation source, and the conditions specified for each type or category of food for processing by radiation,

under the Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food and Allied Products) Rules, 2012.

- (2) The food which has been processed by radiation shall be identified in such a way so as to prevent its being subjected to re-irradiation.
- (3) The radiation processing shall be carried out by personnel having the minimum qualifications and training as prescribed for the purpose under the Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food and Allied Products) Rules, 2012.
- (4) The food once irradiated shall not be re-irradiated unless specifically so permitted under these regulations.

2.13.4: Record of Radiation Processing of Food -

Any treatment of food by radiation shall be recorded by facility as specified under the Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food and Allied Products) Rules, 2012.

2.13.5: Standards of Radiation Processed Food -

The Radiation processed food shall comply with all the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act and the Regulations made thereunder specifying standards of such food.

2.13.6: Storage and Sale of Radiation Processed Food -

Save as otherwise provided in these regulations, no person shall irradiate for sale, store for sale, or transport for sale irradiated food.

2.13.7: Restriction on Sale of Radiation Processed Food -

The Radiation processed food shall be offered for sale only in pre-packaged conditions.

2.13.8: Labelling of Radiation Processed Food -

- (1) The label of a food, which has been treated with ionizing radiation, shall carry a written statement indicating the treatment in close proximity to the name of the food.

- (2) All packages of radiation processed food shall bear the Radura logo in green colour and following declaration, namely:—

PROCESSED BY RADIATION



Name of the Product:

Purpose of Radiation Processing:

Operating License No. :

Batch Identification No. (BIN) (as provided by facility):

Date of Processing.....”

Notice calling for suggestions, views, comments etc from WTO-SPS Committee Members within a period of 60 days on the proposed standards for labelling of Irradiated Foods

2. In the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011, in regulation 2.4 -
- (a) Sub-regulation 2.4.4 relating to “Labelling of Irradiated Food” shall be omitted;
 - (b) the Sub-regulation 2.4.5 relating to “Specific Labelling Requirements of other Products” shall be re-numbered as 2.4.4.

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