

No. 1-17/FSSAI/T/2010
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road
New Delhi-110002

Dated: 15th December, 2011

Subject: Ad-hoc instructions related to Imported Food Clearance Process by FSSAI's Authorized Officers regarding Date of Manufacture and Batch Number

In recent times, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been receiving many representations from food importers in India regarding minor labelling defects in the imported food articles. Various such representations were considered in FSSAI. After due consideration on operational issues and inconvenience suffered by the food importers in India, while ensuring the mandate of safe food imports into India and in continuation to FSSAI's ad-hoc guidelines of even number dated 12.10.2011 on the subject mentioned above, the undersigned is directed to convey the decision of the Competent Authority on the following minor labelling defects observed by the Authorized Officers, FSSAI at ports:

S. No.	Defects	Decision
1.	'Date of Manufacture' which is supposed to be mentioned in the date, month and year format but is given in Julian format in the labels of the imported food consignments.	The 'Date of manufacture' will be given in date, month and year format on sticker in addition to the 'Date of manufacture' in Julian format already present in the labels along with the rectifiable labelling requirements viz. Name and address of the importer and vegetarian/non-vegetarian logo. The sticker should be pasted in a way that it does not mask the original 'Date of manufacture' in Julian format present in the labels. The defect may be rectified strictly in the custom's warehouse under supervision of customs department.
2.	'Batch number' which is present in the labels but is not preceded by a prefix such as Lot number/Lot/Code Number/ Code/Batch Number/ Batch or any other distinguishing prefix as per the Food Safety and Standards Regulation, 2011.	It has been decided by the Competent Authority that consignments without prefix such as Lot number/ Lot/Code Number/ Code/Batch Number/Batch or any other distinguishing prefix as per the Food Safety and Standards Regulation, 2011 shall be accepted subject to the condition that Authorized Officer, FSSAI will verify from the relevant documents from the manufacturer/exporter of the source country and satisfy himself that the numbers/ alphabets/ combination of numbers/alphabets present in the labels are a valid batch number/lot number/code number of that particular consignment.

Adesh

2. This decision will be applicable only for three months from the date of issue of this letter or till further orders, whichever is earlier. All food importers in India are requested to notify their manufacturers abroad/exporters of source country within these three months about ensuring the abovementioned labelling requirements of the food products being imported into India as per Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011. After lapse of these three months, no requests for relaxation regarding abovementioned minor labelling defects shall be entertained.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Adesh
15/12/11

(Adesh Mohan)

Senior Inspecting Officer

Ph.: 011-23237433

To

All Authorized Officers, FSSAI