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**This table summarises the general requirements and standards for food and agricultural imports into India.**

<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Food Law/ Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) and recent notifications are available at <a href="http://mohfw.nic.in/pfa.htm">http://mohfw.nic.in/pfa.htm</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Enforced by Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) - <a href="http://www.fssai.gov.in">http://www.fssai.gov.in</a></li><li>– Covers various aspects of food processing and distribution such as food colour, preservatives, artificial sweeteners, pesticide residues, packaging and labeling and regulation of sales</li><li>– meant to protect India against impure, unsafe, and fraudulently labeled foods</li><li>– the most important food law in the country</li></ul></li><li>• Indian standards generally follow international standards.</li><li>• The requirement and other provisions of these food laws will continue to be in force as a transitory provision for food standards.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Prevention of Food Adulteration Act</li><li>– Milk and Milks Products Order</li><li>– Fruit Products Order</li><li>– Meat Products Order</li><li>– Three food laws specific to vegetable oils (Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1998; Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998; The Solvent Extracted Oil, Deoiled Meal and Edible Flour (Control) Order, 1967)</li><li>– The Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976, and the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rule, 1977 (can be accessed from the website of the Department of Consumer Affairs)</li></ul></li></ul>
Regulatory Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Enforces the law that was previously enforced by the Director General of Health Services, Department of Health (DH), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MHFW), Government of India (GOI)</li><li>– mandated to lay down science-based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import</li></ul></li><li>• Ministry of Health and Family Welfare<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The administrative control of FSSAI</li></ul></li></ul>
General Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Export certification requirements for imports of food products in India are summarized in</li></ul>

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<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	FAIRS Export Certificate Report 2008 (IN8110 or IN7090) – available at <a href="http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200709/146292459.pdf">http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200709/146292459.pdf</a> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no need to translate the import documents into the local language as English is an official language.</li> </ul>
Health and sanitary certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For plant and plant products</li> <li>• Plant certificates granted from Plant Protection Advisor of India required</li> </ul>
Sanitary health certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For animal and animal products</li> </ul>
Phytosanitary certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For agricultural commodities, including plant origin packaging</li> <li>• Exemption: Packing material treated and marked with ISPM-15 (compliance to International Standard for Phytosanitary Measure – Guideline 15- Regulation for Wood Packaging Material in International Trade)</li> </ul>
License	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From FSSAI: For all units that process fruits and vegetables (as per Fruit Products Order)</li> <li>• For irradiated food</li> </ul>
Other import documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Import declaration in the prescribed Bill of Entry format, disclosing the value of the imported goods</li> <li>• Import license</li> <li>• Certification from the port health authority that the product conforms to the standards and regulations of the PFA.</li> <li>• Documentation such as sales invoices and freight and insurance certificates</li> </ul> Additional information on exporting food products to India is available in the "Exporter Guide" (GAIN Report #IN8112 - <a href="http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200810/146295990.pdf">http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200810/146295990.pdf</a> )
<b>Labeling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declarations can be               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– printed on a label securely affixed to the package</li> <li>– made on an additional wrapper containing the imported package</li> <li>– printed on the package itself or</li> <li>– made on a card or tape affixed firmly to the package or container and bearing the required information</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
a) Standard declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulated under Part VII of the PFA Rules, 1955, and the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977. In general, the label should provide the following information:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Name and address of manufacturer/packer/importer/vendor</li> <li>– Name/trade name/description of product</li> <li>– Ingredients in descending order</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- net quantity (metric units)</li><li>- month and year of manufacturing/packing</li><li>- month and year by which the product is best consumed</li><li>- country of origin</li><li>- distinctive lot number</li><li>- Maximum retail price (inclusive of all taxes, local or otherwise)</li><li>- instruction for use</li><li>- Nutritional labeling</li><li>• Per Notification No. 44 (RE-2000)/1997-2002, all packaged commodities, including packaged food, imported into India should also carry the following declarations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Name and address of the importer</li><li>- Generic or common name of the commodity packed</li><li>- Net quantity using standard units of weights and measures (or its equivalent terms of standard)</li><li>- Month and year in which the commodity was manufactured, packed, or imported</li><li>- The maximum retail price at which the commodity in packaged form may be sold to the ultimate consumer. This price shall include all taxes, local or otherwise, freight, transport charges, commission payable to dealers, and all charges towards advertising, delivery, packing, forwarding, and the like.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>The full notification is available at: <a href="http://dgftcom.nic.in/exim/2000/not/not00/not4400.htm">http://dgftcom.nic.in/exim/2000/not/not00/not4400.htm</a></p>
b) Special labeling requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any presence of colouring matter in food should be declared. More details are available from Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) - <a href="http://www.mohfw.nic.in/pfa%20acts%20and%20rules.pdf">http://www.mohfw.nic.in/pfa%20acts%20and%20rules.pdf</a> .</li><li>• Irradiated food should be labeled with purpose of irradiation and license number</li><li>• Artificial sweeteners used in products must be a permitted sweetener and carry label "CONTAINS ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER AND FOR CALORIE CONSCIOUS"</li><li>• For certain packaged food items, such as infant foods, condensed milk, milk powder, blended vegetable oils, etc., please refer to Section 42, Part VII of the PFA Rules updated on October 1, 2004</li></ul>
c) Language	Labels must be printed in English or Hindi
d) Shelf life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Per Notification No. 22 (RE-2001) 1997-2002 (available at <a href="http://dgftcom.nic.in/exim/2000/not/not01/not2201.htm">http://dgftcom.nic.in/exim/2000/not/not01/not2201.htm</a>)</li><li>• Must not be less than 60% of original shelf life calculated, based on the declaration given</li></ul>

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<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	on the label of the product, regarding the date of manufacture and the due date of expiry)
e) Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On September 19, 2008, the DH, MHFW, issued a final Gazette of India notification requiring nutritional labeling on packaged food under the PFA. Procedures for listing of ingredients, nutritional information, irradiated food, proprietary food, etc are available at <a href="http://www.mohfw.nic.in/Noti%20664.pdf">www.mohfw.nic.in/Noti%20664.pdf</a></li> <li>• Nutritional information or nutritional facts per 100 gram or 100 ml or per serving of the product should be given on the label on every packaged food, which include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Energy value in kcal</li> <li>(b) Amount of protein, carbohydrates (specify quantity of sugar) and fat</li> <li>(c) Amount of any other nutrient for which nutrition or health claim is made</li> <li>(d) Numerical information on vitamins and minerals</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Exemptions: Raw agricultural commodities, spice mixes, condiments, non-nutritive products, alcoholic beverages, processed pre-packaged vegetables and fruits, etc.</p>
f) Special marking	<p>Symbol of brown color-filled circle inside a square with brown outline, close to food name or brand name.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Non-vegetarian food</li> </ul> <p>Green coloured symbol instead of brown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For vegetarian food</li> </ul>
Labeling requirements for Proprietary Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A food which has not been standardized under the PFA Rules, in addition to complying with labeling requirements specified under the PFA, should also conform to the following requirements:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The name of the food and category under which it falls in the PFA rules should be mentioned on the label.</li> <li>(b) Should comply with all other regulatory provisions specified in the PFA Rules and in Appendixes to these Rules.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>For details see: <a href="http://www.mohfw.nic.in/Noti%20664.pdf">www.mohfw.nic.in/Noti%20664.pdf</a></p>
<b>Other Information</b>	
Processed fruit and vegetable products	Must meet Fruit Products Order Standard, which can be accessed from <a href="http://www.fssai.gov.in/Fruit-Prod.aspx">http://www.fssai.gov.in/Fruit-Prod.aspx</a>
Meat Products	Regulated under Meat Food Products Order, details available at <a href="http://www.fssai.gov.in/MFPO%201973-Amended%20_English_.pdf">http://www.fssai.gov.in/MFPO%201973-Amended%20_English_.pdf</a>
Milk and milk products	Sanitary requirements and quality control standards are regulated by Milk and Milk Products

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	Order, 1992, which is detailed at <a href="http://www.fssai.gov.in/mmpo.pdf">http://www.fssai.gov.in/mmpo.pdf</a>
Livestock	Under the Livestock Importation Act, 1898, the government established procedures for the importation of livestock and related products to India, which are implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture (MA). These procedures are available at: <a href="http://dahd.nic.in/order/livestockimport.doc">http://dahd.nic.in/order/livestockimport.doc</a>
Plant Quarantine	The GOI formulated the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003, under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914. This Order, along with several subsequent amendments, is available at: <a href="http://www.plantquarantineindia.org/PQO_amendments.htm">www.plantquarantineindia.org/PQO_amendments.htm</a>
All products in general	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must meet the requirements under various domestic food laws (ref to PFA) although no specific export certificates from country of origin for imports of processed foods are needed</li> <li>• Subject to compliance with all conditions of Standards of Weights and Measures and required to register with Bureau of Indian Standards</li> </ul>
Food ingredients and additives containing bioengineered organisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can only be imported upon approval from GEAC (Genetic Engineering Approval Committee).</li> <li>• For additional details on genetically modified foods and ingredients, please refer to GAIN Report IN8077 at <a href="http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200808/146295379.pdf">http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200808/146295379.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Pesticide residue and other contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Agriculture regulates the manufacture, sale, import, export and use of pesticides through the Insecticide Act, 1968 (<a href="http://cibrc.nic.in/insecticides_act.htm">http://cibrc.nic.in/insecticides_act.htm</a>) and the rules framed under the Act (<a href="http://cibrc.nic.in/insecticides_rules.htm">http://cibrc.nic.in/insecticides_rules.htm</a>).</li> <li>• The MRLs in food commodities are prescribed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the PFA and the rules framed under the Act.</li> <li>• An MRL is established taking into account the toxicological data of the pesticide as well as that of the residues on crops under Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 217 pesticides registered (<a href="http://cibrc.nic.in/reg_products.htm">http://cibrc.nic.in/reg_products.htm</a>)</li> <li>– Only 143 have Maximum Residual Limits (MRL) notified (<a href="http://www.mohfw.nic.in/pfa%20acts%20and%20rules.pdf">www.mohfw.nic.in/pfa%20acts%20and%20rules.pdf</a> , Part XIV pages 163-177; <a href="http://www.mohfw.nic.in/Noti%20633.pdf">www.mohfw.nic.in/Noti%20633.pdf</a> , and <a href="http://www.mohfw.nic.in/Noti%20367.pdf">www.mohfw.nic.in/Noti%20367.pdf</a>)</li> <li>– 27 do not require MRL,</li> <li>– The remaining's MRL have not been established</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CODEX MRLs may be accepted for imported foodstuffs only for those not included in</li> </ul>

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<b>Certification/ Requirements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	India's own positive list.
Packaging & Container Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All weights or measures are to be reported in metric units.</li><li>• Certain commodities can only be packed in specified quantities (weight, measure, or number). These include baby food, biscuits, bread, butter, coffee, tea, vegetable oils, milk powder, and wheat and rice flour.</li><li>• The use of materials such as Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) is not allowed for packaging in most cities, due to environmental concerns and waste disposal problems.</li></ul>
Port of Entry Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All consignments are required to be inspected prior to clearance.</li><li>• The clearance of imported food products at the port of entry requires a certification from the port health authority that the product conforms to the standards and regulations of the PFA. However, certification is based mostly on visual inspection and records of past imports, as most ports have limited testing facilities. Consequently, importers of new products can sometimes face delays in clearing their products. The custom clearance period may range from one day to one month, depending on the product and experience of the importer.</li><li>• In the current customs set-up, appointing a clearing agent avoids delays</li><li>• Additional information on exporting food products to India is available in the "Exporter Guide" (GAIN Report #IN8112), which is available at <a href="http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200810/146295990.pdf">http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200810/146295990.pdf</a></li></ul>
High risk items	Edible oil and fat, pulse and its products, cereal & their products, milk powder, condensed milk, food colours and additives are subject to 100% sampling

Reference: Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) and recent notifications (<http://www.mohfw.nic.in/pfa.htm>)  
FSSAI (<http://www.fssai.gov.in/>)  
USDA FAS GAIN Report

**DISCLAIMER:**

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