

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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FSSAI Introduces a Food Categorization System

Report Categories:

Exporter Guide

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

FAIRS Subject Report

Product Brief

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Report Highlights:

On May 11, 2012, The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced a Food Categorization System (FCS) for all food products covered by the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011. Under the proposed FCS, the FSSAI has classified food products into categories and sub categories, with distinct codes. Some proprietary products are also included. The coding system is based on the Codex structure to promote consistency between domestic and international food standards. It has not been notified to the WTO.

General Information:

On May 11, 2012, The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced a Food Categorization System (FCS) for all food products covered under Chapter two of the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011. Under the proposed FCS, the FSSAI has classified food products into categories and sub categories, with distinct codes. Some proprietary products are also included. The coding system is based on the Codex structure to promote consistency between domestic and international food standards. It has not been notified to the WTO.

The Authority has invited comments from stakeholders on the FCS. The comments must be sent (by post or e-mail) to the following address:

Dr. D. S. Yadav
Director (Enforcement II)
FDA Bhawan
near Bal Bhavan,
Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110002
India
Email: dsyadav@fssai.gov.in

The Food Categorization System along with Food Codes for various food products is available on the FSSAI's [website](#). It can be also accessed through the following links:

[Letter from FSSAI introducing Food Categorization System](#)

[Food Codes](#)

Advantages of Food Categorization System:

1. It is based on codex structure which is internationally recognized. CODEX standards are accepted by a large number of countries.
2. FCS will provide a scientific basis to the Indian food laws, improving product quality for Indian consumers and International consumers of Indian food.
3. The harmonization with other global regulations will promote and facilitate international trade.
4. CODEX standards are basis for resolution of WTO trade disputes.

Food categorization System: India vis-à-vis the EU FCS and Codex FCS

Following table provides categorical comparison of FSSAI's proposed Food Classification System with EU and CODEX Food Classification Systems.

Food categorization System: India vis-à-vis the EU FCS and Codex FCS			
Category code	India Food Classification System (proposed by FSSAI)	EU Food Categorization System	Codex Food Categorization System
1.0	Dairy products and analogues, excluding products of food category 02.0	Dairy products and analogues	Dairy products, excluding products of category 02.0
2.0	Fats and oils, and fat emulsions	Fats and oils and fat and oil emulsions	Fats and oils, and fat emulsions (type water-in-oil)
3.0	Edible ices, including sorbet	Edible ices	Edible ices, including sherbet and sorbet
4.0	Fruits and vegetables (including mushrooms and fungi, roots and tubers, fresh pulses and legumes, and aloe vera), seaweeds, and nuts and seeds	Fruit and vegetables	Fruits and vegetables (including mushrooms and fungi, roots and tubers, pulses and legumes, aloe vera), seaweeds, and nuts and seeds
5.0	Confectionery	Confectionery	Confectionery
6.0	Cereals and cereal products, derived from cereal grains, from roots and tubers, pulses, legumes (fresh pulses and legumes are covered in category 4.2) and pith or soft core of palm tree, excluding bakery wares of food category 07.0	Cereals and cereal products	Cereals and cereal products, including flours and starches from roots and tubers, pulses and legumes, excluding bakery wares of food category 07.0
7.0	Bakery products	Bakery wares	Bakery wares
8.0	Meat and meat products, including poultry and game	Meat	Meat and meat products, including poultry and game
9.0	Fish and fish products, including molluscs, crustaceans, and echinoderms	Fish and fisheries products	Fish and fish products, including molluscs, crustaceans, and echinoderms
10.0	Eggs and egg products	Egg and egg products	Eggs and egg products
11.0	Sweeteners, including honey	Sugars, syrups, honey and table-top	Sweeteners, including honey

		sweeteners	
12.0	Salts, spices, soups, sauces, salads and protein products	Salts, spices, soups, sauces, salads and protein products	Salts, spices, soups, sauces, salads, protein products
13.0	Foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses	Foods for particular nutritional uses as defined by Directive 2009/39/EG	Foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses
14.0	Beverages, excluding dairy products	Beverages	Beverages, excluding dairy products
15.0	Ready-to-eat savories	Ready-to eat savories and snacks	Ready-to-eat savouries
16.0	Prepared Foods	Desserts, excluding products covered in categories 1, 3 and 4	Composite foods (e.g., casseroles, meat pies, mincemeat) - foods that could not be placed in categories 01 - 15
17.0	Not classified	Foods supplements as defined in Directive 2002/46/EG, excluding food supplements for infants and young children	Not classified
18.0	Not classified	Processed foods not covered by categories 1 - 17, excluding foods for infants and young children	Not classified
17.0	Products not covered into category 1-17	Not classified	Not classified
99.0	Substances added to food	Not classified	Not classified
Source:	<u>Food Codes, FSSAI</u>	<u>EU FCS</u>	<u>Codex FCS</u>

17-3/ENF/FSSAI/2011
Food Safety & Standards Authority of India
(Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road
New Delhi-110002

To, Dated: 10.05.2012

All Commissioner of Food Safety for States/UTs

Subject: Categorization of food products & development of Food Codes-reg.

Food Safety & Standards Authority of India has developed Categorization of food products & Food Codes for all the products as covered under Chapter 2 of Food Safety & Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 including some proprietary items. A table has been prepared clarifying the items covered under Central/State Licensing and registration.

In order to cover all food items & modification (if any), suggestions are being invited up to 20.05.2012 by 5.00 PM. All suggestions may be sent to Dr. D.S.Yadav, Deputy Director (E-II) AT the following address or e mail address:

Yours faithfully,
(Dr D.S.Yadav)
Deputy Director (Enf-II)

Copy to:

1. All Directors, FSSAI
2. All Central DOs/Authorised Officers
3. All Deputy Directors
4. on website for wider circulation & consultation
5. National Institute of Smart Government (NISG)