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POLICY

Date: 2/7/2019 Voluntary - Public

GAIN Report Number: IN9002

India

Post: New Delhi

Rectifiable Labeling for Alcoholic Beverages

Report Categories:

Beverages

Wine

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Exporter Guide

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

The Government of India's (GOI) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently amended the rectifiable labeling list for imported alcoholic beverages. Instead of printing a statutory warning on the principal label, it can be affixed at the customs bound warehouse.

General Information:

On January 14, 2019, FSSAI, in order to facilitate trade as well as ensure food safety, published a notification on the additional labeling requirements for alcoholic beverages that can be rectified at custom-bonded warehouses before visual inspection or re-inspection by authorized officers. FSSAI has amended point 5.12 under Part 5 - Specific Labeling Requirements for Alcoholic Beverages of the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018. The statutory warning– ***“consumption of alcohol is injurious to health”*** and ***“be safe-don’t drive and drive”*** can be rectified by affixing a single non-detachable sticker next to the principal display panel without altering or masking the original label information in any manner. The regulations will be effective from April 1, 2019 onwards.

Currently, the allowable list of rectifiable labeling requirements for imported alcoholic beverages include name and address of the importer, FSSAI logo and license number.

The entire text of the notification is pasted below and is also available on FSSAI’s website www.fssai.gov.in

No. 1-1570/FSSAI/Imports/2015
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India
FDA Bhavan, New Delhi- 02

Dated: 14 January, 2019

Sub: Rectifiable labeling information for imported food consignments -reg.

With a view to facilitate ease of trade while ensuring the safety of food imported into India, it has been decided that in addition to the labeling deficiencies for which a special dispensation for rectification has been provided under Reg 6(4) of FSS (Import) Regulations, 2017 and under order dated 22.05.2018, the labeling information as mentioned below, as per Regulation 5.12 of FSS(Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018, may also be allowed to be rectified.

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH
BE SAFE-DONT DRINK AND DRIVE

2. This rectification has to be carried out at Customs bound warehouses, before visual inspection or re-inspection by the Authorised Officer or his representative, by affixing a single non detachable sticker or by any other non-detachable method next to the principal display panel without altering or masking the original label information in any manner.
3. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Suneeti Toteja)
Director (Imports)

To

1. Commissioner (Single Window Project, CBEC)- for further necessary action.
2. Director (Customs), CBEC- for information and necessary actions.

Copy to (for information)-

1. Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
2. Special Secretary (Logistics), Department of Commerce.
3. Smt. Seema Jere Bisht, ADG, Risk Management Division, CBEC
4. Advisor (Standard)
5. Advisor (Regulation)
6. Advisor (QA), FSSAI
7. Head (Legal/GA), FSSAI
8. Head (RCD), FSSAI
9. All Authorised Officers of FSSAI
10. PPS to Chairperson, FSSAI
11. PS to CEO, FSSAI
12. CITO (for uploading on the FSSAI website)