

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: March 25, 2024

Report Number: IN2024-0015

Report Name: Walks like a Duck and Quacks like a Duck - We Have US Grade A Duck in India

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: Export Accomplishments - Market Access, Agriculture in the News, Poultry and Products

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Approved By: Mariano Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Report Highlights:

On February 22, 2024, India's Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying/Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, issued Office Memorandum File No. L-110109(3)/1/2016-Trade (E-2625) outlining the parameters for premium frozen duck meat for import into India. On March 6, 2024, the Ministry of Commerce and of Industry/Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Foreign Trade, authorized imports of premium frozen duck meat for into India under the harmonized tariff system (HS) codes 0207.4200 and 0207.4500. Concurrently, on March 6, 2024, the Ministry of Finance/Department of Revenue notified the lowering of import duties for premium frozen duck meat and the governing conditions for imports via the Notification No. 13/2024-Customs. Exports of U.S.-origin premium frozen duck meat to India are foreseen to accelerate in the short-to-mid-term.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from multiple Government of India sources, including the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying/Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying located at <https://dahd.nic.in/>; Ministry of Commerce and Industry/Department of Commerce – Directorate General Foreign Trade located at <https://www.dgft.gov.in/>; and the Ministry of Finance/Department of Revenue - Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs located at <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in>. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, USDA, and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of India has not officially endorsed this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Indian officials at the time of product entry. [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links that do not open in Microsoft Edge. Indian host sites will geo-block site access on a rolling basis].

GENERAL INFORMATION

On February 22, 2024, India’s Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD)/Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) issued **Office Memorandum File No. L-110109(3)/1/2016-Trade (E-2625)**, pursuant to the Mutually Agreed Solution (MAS) in DS430 (India - Agricultural Products) as per the recommendations of the (India) Department of Commerce, pertaining to the requirements, standards, and designation of premium frozen duck meat for import (see, Appendix I).

Subsequently on March 6, 2024, the Ministry of Commerce and of Industry (MOCI)/Department of Commerce (DOC) - Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued **Notification No. 66/2023**, which revises the import policy conditions on premium frozen duck meat and edible offal, harmonized tariff system (HS) codes 0207.4200 and 0207.4500, improving export possibilities for U.S.-origin duck and duck products (see, Appendix II).

Concurrently, on March 6, the Ministry of Finance (MOF)/Department of Revenue (DOR) issued **Notification No. 13/2024-Customs** in the Gazette of India (official gazette) (see, Appendix III). This notification facilitates the import of premium frozen duck meat, helping to lower India’s import duties levied on premium frozen duck meat and edible offal, harmonized tariff system (HS) codes 0207.4200 and 0207.4500 from 30 percent to 5 percent. U.S.-origin exports to India of premium frozen duck meat and edible offal (USDA Grade A) are consequently anticipated to increase.¹

¹ What makes poultry products qualify for Grade A depends on the absence of “defects,” such as the presence of feathers or bruising and discoloration. As poultry is graded, it either meets Grade A criteria for quality or it is downgraded to lesser grades (B&C) depending on the number of defects. U.S. grades are based on nationally uniform standards of quality developed by the Standardization Branch. These standards promote uniformity and assurance of product quality on a continuous basis regardless of supplier. The official USDA grade shield indicates the product’s quality level. USDA poultry grading is a voluntary service paid for by poultry producers. As an independent third party, USDA is recognized for assuring that poultry meet the U.S. grade standards. See, USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Poultry Grading Shields at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/grades-standards/poultry/grade-shields#:~:text=What%20makes%20poultry%20products%20qualify,on%20the%20number%20of%20defects.>

Background

The Indian government's DAHD **Office Memorandum File No. L-110109(3)/1/2016-Trade (E-2625)**, the DGFT's **Notification No. 66/2023**, and the DOR's **Notification No. 13/2024-Customs**, are instrumental regulatory measures implemented that facilitate India's imports of the U.S.-origin premium frozen duck meat and edible offal (USDA Grade A).

Impact on Trade. So, What Does it Mean?

India's implementation of the tariff reduction (effective March 6, 2024) is an outcome of the successful G20 New Delhi Leaders' Summit (September 9-10, 2023) side meetings. Post's close coordination with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) in the lead up to, and following, the G20 meetings facilitated the tariff reduction on premium frozen duck meat and edible offal from 30 percent to 5 percent.

This tariff reduction includes an amendment in India's import policy which allows U.S.-origin premium frozen duck to supply three-star hotels and above, as well as restaurants that are on India's hotel requisition list and that are appropriately licensed. With the lowered duty and the amendment in the import policy, India's imports of U.S.-origin frozen duck meat are estimated to increase by 80 percent this year (i.e., relative to 2021).

Table 1 India, Anticipated U.S. Export Volume Growth, Notification No. 13/2024-Customs

HS Code	Product Description	2023	2024	2025	2026
0207.4200	Ducks (meat), not cut in pieces, frozen.	---	20 MT (1)	36 MT	65 MT
0207.4500	Duck, cuts, and edible offal (including liver) frozen.	---	10 MT (2)	18 MT	33 MT

Note:

(1) For imports of duck meat, 2024's volume of 20 MT represents an 80 percent increase relative to 2021, the highest year on record of imports from the United States based on GATS data.

(2) For imports of duck cuts and edible offal, 2024's volume of 10 MT represents an 80 percent increase relative to 2020, the highest year on record of imports from the United States based on GATS data.

Source: Trade Data Monitor (TDM), GATS, FAS New office research.

Notification Details

Notification: Office Memorandum File No. L-110109(3)/1/2016-Trade (E-2625)

Publication Date: February 22, 2024

Date of Implementation: Notified on the DAHD website as of February 22, 2024.

Products Affected: Ducks (meat), not cut in pieces, frozen; duck, cuts, and edible offal (including liver) frozen.

Agency: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying/ Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

The full text of the DAHD **Office Memorandum File No. L-110109(3)/1/2016-Trade (E-2625)** is accessible on the DAHD website located at:

<https://dahd.nic.in/sites/default/files/OM22February2024CertifyingAuthorityAndProductDesignation.pdf>

Notification: Notification No. 66/2023

Publication Date: February 19, 2024

Date of Implementation: February 20, 2024 (Publication in the Gazette of India).

Products Affected: Ducks (meat), not cut in pieces, frozen; duck, cuts, and edible offal (including liver) frozen.

Agency: Ministry of Commerce and of Industry/Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

The full text of the DGFT **Notification No. 66/2023** is accessible on the DGFT website located at:

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/13372e60-1431-409c-9a95-1aa789fa04e5/Noti66.pdf>

Notification: No. 13/2024-Customs

Publication Date: March 6, 2024

Date of Implementation: Effective as of March 7, 2024.

Products Affected: Ducks (meat), not cut in pieces, frozen; duck, cuts, and edible offal (including liver) frozen.

Agency: India Ministry of Finance/Department of Revenue.

The full text of the DOR **Notification No. 10/2024-Customs** is accessible on the DOR/Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) website located at:

<https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010024/ENG/Notifications>

APPENDIX I: MoFAHD/DAHD - OFFICE MEMORANDUM FILE NO. L-110109(3)/1/2016-TRADE (E-2625) WITH ANNEX

File No. L-110109(3)/1/2016-Trade (E-2625)

भारत सरकार

Government of India

मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली -110 001,

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001,

दिनांक / Dated the 22nd February, 2024.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Mutually Agreed Solution (MAS) in DS430 (India – Agricultural Products) – reg.

This Office Memorandum is being issued pursuant to the Mutually Agreed Solution (MAS) in DS430 (India – Agricultural Products) as per recommendations of the Deptt. of Commerce.

2. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying hereby designates the Regional Officer / Quarantine Officer, Animal Quarantine & Certification Services located at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru to certify that the imported goods are meat and edible offal, of ducks, frozen (other than backs of ducks, frozen) meeting the parameters as Annex.

Encl: As above.



(डाॅ गगन गर्ग)

(Dr. Gagan Garg)

उप-आयुक्त (व्यापार)

Deputy Commissioner (Trade)

Distribution:

- All Regional Officers / Quarantine Officers, Animal Quarantine Certification Services, Delhi / Mumbai / Kolkata / Chennai / Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

Copy for kind information and necessary action to;

- 1) Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 2) Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi.
- 3) Director General, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 4) Shri Peeyush Kumar, Additional Secretary (TNM), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 5) Dr. M. Balaji, Joint Secretary (TNM), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 6) NIC, DAHD with a request to upload on the Departmental portal.

Contd....

Copy also for kind information to;

- 1) PS to the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
 - 2) PS to Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (SKB).
 - 3) Sr. PPS to the Secretary, DAHD.
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Annex

PRODUCT DESIGNATION FOR COMMERCIAL IMPORT OF PREMIUM FROZEN DUCK MEAT INTO INDIA

This Annex outlines the product designation for commercial importation of premium frozen duck meat into India.¹

1. SCOPE

This document prescribes the product designation for raw (unprocessed) frozen duck carcasses and cut-up parts from the Family *Anatidae* marketed as fit for human consumption. Products with added ingredients or "duck preparations" are not permitted.

2. DESCRIPTION

- (a) This document recommends the relevant product designation for the commercial imports of premium frozen duck meat;
- (b) Exporter/contractors are responsible for delivering products that comply with all contractual and production designation requirements.

3. DEFINITION - For the purpose of these product designation for the commercial import of premium frozen duck meat into India, the following definitions shall apply.

- (a) "*Duck meat*" means the edible portion of a duck carcass and cuts-up parts.
- (b) "*Carcass*" means the whole body after bleeding, plucking and evisceration. The heart, liver, lungs, gizzard, crop, legs at the tarsus and the head of duck shall not be included in the carcass.
- (d) "*Frozen duck meat*" means chilled duck meat subjected to freezing in appropriate equipment in such a way that the product attains a temperature of -18° C or lower.
- (e) "*Giblets*" means edible byproducts derived from slaughtered ducks which includes gizzard, liver and heart. The neck will also be placed in the carcass cavity beside the giblet pack.
- (f) "*Whole duck carcass*" means a duck carcass fully composed of head, body, two legs and two wings.
- (g) "*Cut-up-parts*" means cut-up duck carcass, whether or not deboned or deskinning depending on fabricated process.
- (h) "*Breast meat*" means duck meat that is separated from the back of the shoulders through sternum.

¹ For avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that all premium frozen duck meat imported into India shall also comply with the applicable prevailing conditions in force at the time of such importation.



4. REQUIREMENTS

4.1 General requirements

- (a) The product designation provided herein are applicable to individual carcasses and cut-up parts of frozen raw duck as described in Section 4.2.
- (b) Carcasses and cut-up parts found to be unsound, unwholesome, or otherwise unfit for human food in whole or in part, shall not be designated as a premium product as specified in the Section 4.2.
- (c) The duck carcass and their cut-up parts shall come with or without bone. Carcasses or cut-up parts with different bone-in or bone out category should not be packed together.
- (d) The duck carcass and their cut-up parts shall come with skin or without skin and color of the skin may be yellow and white. Carcass or cut-up parts shall be from the same production lot and shall be immediately frozen and different skin color duck shall not mix in the same lot.
- (e) In interpreting the respective requirements specified for the premium product designation, the intensity, aggregate area involved, quantity, and locations of:
 - (1) Conformation,
 - (2) Fleshing,
 - (3) Fat covering (amount of subcutaneous fat under the skin),
 - (4) Exposed flesh (resulting from cuts, tears, and missing skin),
 - (5) Disjointed and broken bones,
 - (6) Defeathering (amount of pinfeathers, diminutive feathers, and hair),
 - (7) Discoloration (whether or not caused by dressing operations and bruises),
 - (8) Freezing defects (including freezer burn) as such defects individually, or in combination, detract from the general appearance, shall be considered in determining the particular quality of an individual carcass or part.

4.2 Product Designation for Premium Frozen Duck Meat

- (a) *Conformation*- The carcass or cut-up parts should be free of deformities that detract from its appearance or that affect the normal distribution of flesh.
- (b) *Fleshing*- The carcass shall have well-developed covering of flesh.
 - (1) The breast is moderately long and deep and has sufficient flesh to give it a rounded appearance with the flesh carrying well up to the crest of the breastbone along its entire length.
 - (2) The leg is well fleshed and thick and wide at the knee and hip joint area, and has a well-rounded, plump appearance with the flesh carrying well down toward the hock and upward to the hip joint area.
 - (3) The drumstick is well fleshed and thick and wide at the knee joint, and has a well-rounded, plump appearance with the flesh carrying well down toward the hock.



- (4) The thigh is well to moderately fleshed.
 - (5) The wing will be well to moderately fleshed and shall be intact, or wing tips may be removed at the joint and the parts of the wing beyond the second joint may be removed at the joint if both wings are treated equally.
- (c) *Fat covering*- The carcass or cut-up parts has a well-developed layer of fat under the skin. The fat is well-distributed so that there is a noticeable amount of fat under the skin in the areas between the heavy feather tracts.
- (d) *Exposed flesh*- The carcass shall be practically free of cuts, tears and missing skin, if any, the aggregated length shall not exceed 6.5 mm on the breast and legs. 38 mm is allowed on a carcass other than the breast and legs. Parts may have only 6.5 mm exposed flesh.
- (e) *Disjointed and broken bones*- Carcass or cut-up parts shall be free of broken bones except wing tips may be removed beyond the second joint if both wings are treated equally. The tail may be removed at the base. Cut-up parts will be free of disjointed bones except that thighs with back portion, legs or leg quarters, may have the femur dislocated from the hip joint. Otherwise, not more than one disjointed bone is allowed on the carcass.
- (f) *Defeathering*- The carcass or cut-up parts shall have a clean appearance and shall appear free of pinfeathers, diminutive feathers, and hair especially on the breast and legs. To meet these conditions, carcasses may have no more than 8 protruding feathers, and parts may have no more than 4 feathers. Each feather shall be less than 13 mm. Any feather over 13 mm would not allow for the duck to meet the import requirements. Additionally, any hair or down on the carcass or part shall be less than 5 mm and must be scattered to have the clean appearance.
- (g) *Discoloration*- Discoloration due to bruising shall be free of clots. Carcasses may have lightly shaded flesh bruises and discolorations of the skin provided the aggregate area does not exceed 26 mm on the breast or legs of the carcass or elsewhere on the carcass at 58 mm. Moderately shaded discolorations on the carcass are limited to the hock of the leg at 13 mm or elsewhere (besides breast and leg) on the carcass at 26 mm. Lightly shaded discolorations are permitted on cut-up parts at 19 mm and moderate at 10 mm. Evidence of incomplete bleeding, such as more than an occasional slightly reddened feather follicle, is not permitted.
- (h) *Freezing defects (including freezer burn)* -The carcass and cut-up parts shall be practically free from defects which result from handling or occur during freezing or storage. The following defects are permitted if they, alone or in combination, detract only very slightly from the appearance of the carcass and cut-up parts-
- (1) Slight darkening over the back and drumsticks provided the deep-frozen duck or part has a generally bright appearance.
 - (2) Occasional pockmarks due to drying of the inner layer of skin (derma) (however, none may exceed the area of a circle 3 mm in diameter for duck carcass weighing 2.5 kg or less and 6 mm in diameter for duck carcass weighing over 2.5 kg).



- (3) Occasional small areas of clear, pinkish, or reddish colored ice.
- (4) Occasional small areas of dehydration, white to light gray in color, on the flesh of skinless carcasses and cut-up parts, not to exceed the permitted aggregate area for discolorations.

NOTE:

The above-mentioned product designation for the commercial import of premium frozen duck meat into India will be mandatorily subject to system audit as well as physical inspection of establishment(s) in the exporting country before initiating the exports into India.

John Lee

APPENDIX II: MoCI/DoC/DGFT - NOTIFICATION No. 66/2023

To be published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-3, Sub-Section (II)

Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
Directorate General of Foreign Trade

Notification No. 66/2023
New Delhi, Dated: 06th March 2024

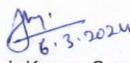
Subject: Amendment in import policy condition for Duck Meat Chapter 2 of ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule-I(Import Policy)

S.O.: In exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 read with Section 5 of FT (D&R) Act, 1992, and read with paragraph 1.02 and 2.01 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby revises the import policy condition of the following items under ITC(HS) Code 02074200 and 02074500 of Chapter 2 of ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule-I(Import Policy), as under:

Exim Code	Item Description	Import Policy	Existing Policy condition	Revised Policy condition
02074200	-Of ducks : Not cut in pieces, frozen	Free	-	Import of Premium Duck Meat as per DAHD OM No. L-110109(3)/1/2016-Trade (E-2625) dated 22.02.2024 and under Department of Revenue Notification No. 13/2024-Customs dated 06.03.2024 for supply to Hotels and Restaurants shall be 'Restricted'. Other Imports under given ITC(HS) code shall be 'Free'.
02074500	-Of ducks : Other, frozen	Free	-	Import of Premium Duck Meat as per DAHD OM No. L-110109(3)/1/2016-Trade (E-2625) dated 22.02.2024 and under Department of Revenue Notification No. 13/2024-Customs dated 06.03.2024 for supply to Hotels and Restaurants shall be 'Restricted'. Other Imports under given ITC(HS) code shall be 'Free'.

Effect of the Notification: Import of Premium Duck Meat as per DAHD OM No. L-110109(3)/1/2016-Trade (E-2625) dated 22.02.2024 and under Department of Revenue Notification No. 13/2024-Customs dated 06.03.2024 for supply to Hotels and Restaurants shall be 'Restricted'. Other Imports under ITC(HS) codes 02074200 and 02074500 shall be 'Free'.

This is issued with the approval of Minister of Commerce & Industry.


(Santosh Kumar Sarangi)
Director General of Foreign Trade &
Ex- officio Addl. Secretary to the Government of India
E-mail: dgft@nic.in

(F.No. 01/89/180/200/AM-02/PC-2(A)/Part-I./E-31445)

APPENDIX III: MoF/DoR - NOTIFICATION No. 13/2024-CUSTOMS

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II, SECTION 3,
SUB-SECTION(i)]
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE)

Notification No. 13/2024-Customs

New Delhi, the 06th March, 2024

G.S.R.(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) and sub-section (12) of section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 50/2017-Customs, dated the 30th June, 2017, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), *vide* number G.S.R. 785(E), dated the 30th June, 2017, namely:-

In the said notification,

- (1) in the Table, after S. No. 3AA and the entries relating thereto, the following S. No. and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
"3AB.	0207 42 00; 0207 45 00	Meat and edible offal, of ducks, frozen	5%	-	116";

- (2) in the Annexure, after condition number 115 and the entries relating thereto, the following condition number and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

(1)	(2)
"116.	<p>If, at the time of import, -</p> <p>(a) the importer furnishes a certificate to the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or the Assistant Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be, from the designated officer in terms of O.M. No. L-110109(3)/1/2016-Trade (E-2625), dated 22nd February, 2024, issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, that the imported goods are meat and edible offal, of ducks, frozen (other than backs of ducks, frozen), satisfying the parameters specified in the Annex to the said O.M.; and</p> <p>(b) the importer furnishes to the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or the Assistant Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be, -</p> <p>i. a certificate from an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Tourism recommending that the importer is a 3-Star and above operational hotel as per notification issued by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, as amended, or</p> <p>ii. a valid restricted import authorisation issued under DGFT notification No. 66/2023, dated 06th March, 2024, as amended";</p>

2. This notification shall come into force on the 07th day of March, 2024.

[F. No. CBIC-190354/166/2023-TO(TRU-D)]

(Vikram Vijay Wanere)

Under Secretary

Note: The principal notification No. 50/2017-Customs, dated the 30th June, 2017 was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-Section (i), *vide* number G.S.R. 785(E), dated the 30th June, 2017, and was last amended *vide* notification No. 10/2024-Customs, dated the 19th February, 2024, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-Section (i), *vide* number G.S.R. 115(E), dated the 19th February, 2024.

Attachments:

No Attachments.