



SPICES BOARD

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry Govt. of India)
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Circular No:13/2023-24

18th December, 2023

Sub: SPS and TBT notification pertaining to Spices - reg.

A compilation of the SPS and TBT notifications by the WTO Member countries, that could potentially impact India's export of spices and spice products is given below.

I. TBT Measures that could potentially impact Indian Spice Sector

1 Notification No: G/TBT/N/CHN/447/Add.2 dt. 15 September 2023

China has modified the national standard on Requirements for Restricting Excessive Package Foods and Cosmetics.

Number of packaging layers for grain and its processed products, tea, moon cakes, and rice dumplings, should not exceed three layers. for others, it should not exceed four layers.

Probable Concern:

The regulations do not consider requirements for export packaging that would withstand transportation over long distances by sea.

2 Notification No: G/TBT/N/CHN/1715 dt. 03 February 2023

China has specified the requirements for limiting excessive packaging of edible agricultural products, describes the testing methods corresponding to the above requirements and give the rules for judgement.

Under the requirements, the packaging for edible agricultural products should not exceed 3 layers.

The cost of packaging should not exceed 20% of the sales price of the product.

The weight ratio of the package should not exceed 30%, when the weight of crab bales is included in the invoicing weight, the weight of the individual bales should not exceed 5% of the total weight of the single crabs.

Probable Concern:

The regulations cover all edible agricultural products grouped under four overtly broad categories namely fruits, meat, eggs and aquatic products. Within each category, different products require different types of packaging. The regulations do not take into account product-specific packaging requirements. The regulations do not consider requirements for export packaging that would withstand transportation over long distances by sea.

3 Notification No: G/TBT/N/USA/1637/Add.1 dt. 20 January 2023

USA has issued final rule amending regulations to strengthen oversight and enforcement of the production, handling, and sale of organic agricultural products.

The said regulation provisioned for National Organic program import certificates, recordkeeping, and product traceability, certifying agent personnel qualifications and training, standardized certificates of organic operation; unannounced on-site inspections of certified operations; oversight of certification activities; foreign conformity assessment systems; certification of producer group operations; labeling of nonretail containers; annual update requirements for certified operations; compliance and appeals processes; and calculating organic content of multi-ingredient products.

4 Notification No: G/TBT/N/EU/995 dt. 20 July 2023

EU has revised its regulations relating to Import of Organic Products. The regulation covers:

- organizing on-the-spot examinations of control authorities and control bodies.
- grounds for measures to be taken by the Commission in supervising recognized third countries and control authorities and control bodies.
- actions to be taken by competent authorities in third countries upon notification of irregularities or infringements.

Supplemental rules on the information are to be sent by third countries (non-EU member countries) for supervision of their recognition of imported organic products.

Probable Concern:

This supplemental regulation of EU rules on the information to be sent by third countries (Non-EU member countries) and by control authorities and control bodies for supervision of their recognition of imported organic products and the measures to be taken in the exercise of that supervision.

II. SPS Measures that could potentially impact Indian Spice Sector

1 Notification No: G/SPS/N/GBR/44 dt 09 October,2023

United Kingdom has increased frequency of inspections and testing on various Indian products as follows,

a) New listing in Annex I for Cinnamon and Cinnamon-Tree Flowers (Food –dried spices) from India at 10% frequency of identity and physical checks for Pesticide Residues.

b) New listing in Annex I for Cloves (whole fruit, cloves and stems) (Food –dried spices) from India at 10% frequency of identity and physical checks for Pesticide Residues.

c) New listing in Annex I for Nutmeg, Mace and Cardamoms (Food –dried spices) from India at 10% frequency of identity and physical checks for Pesticide Residues.

d) New listing in Annex I for Seeds of Anise, Badian, Fennel, Coriander, Cumin or Caraway, Juniper Berries (Food –dried spices) from India at 10% frequency of identity and physical checks for Pesticide Residues.

e) New listing in Annex I for Ginger, Saffron, Turmeric (Curcuma), Thyme, Bay Leaves, Curry and other spices (Food –dried spices) from India at 10% frequency of identity and physical checks for Pesticide Residues

2 Notification No: G/SPS/N/USA/3427 dt 09 October 2023

United States of America has proposed to impose a limit of 0.5 ppm for the pesticide Cypermethrin for Pepper.

3 Notification No: G/SPS/N/USA/3420 dt 06 September 2023

United States of America has proposed to impose a limit of 1.7 ppm for the pesticide Spinosad , for Spices.

4 Notification No: G/SPS/N/USA/3351 dt 10 October 2022

United States of America has proposed to impose a limit of 0.4 ppm for the pesticide Glufosinate , for Rapeseed group (in. mustard seeds).

In this regard, all exporters of spices and spice products to the aforementioned countries are requested to exercise due diligence for ensuring compliance with the applicable regulations.

Further, the exporters and the associations are requested to share their feedback on the likely impact of notifications on India's export of spices and spice products to the respective countries, within 29th December 2023, to marketing.sb-ker@gov.in .



Director (MKTG) i/c

To
All Exporters of Spices and Spice Products
Exporters Associations

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(Hindi Version follows)