



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 06/22

Update on Certification for Exports of Fish & Fishery Products to India

Date issued: 28 October 2022

Purpose

To inform all UK FCCOs that:

The 1 November 2022 deadline has been extended to 1 January 2023.

1. On Thursday, 27 October 2022, FSSAI, the competent authority in India, published a new Order, stating that the implementation date of **Order F. No. 1829** has been extended by 2 months till 1 January 2023.
2. This is further to APHA Briefing Note 05/22 which stated that with effect from 1 November 2022, India is no longer willing to accept Local Authority certificates for exports of fish & fishery products from the UK.
3. This should allow sufficient time for consignments already despatched on non-APHA-issued certificates to arrive at their destination and clear India customs without incident.
4. However, it would still not be advisable to issue any new certificate unless there is total certainty that the consignment will arrive in India by or before 31 December 2022.

Background

The UK does not currently have a central competent authority certificate for fish & fishery products to India.

We are, however, aware that a significant volume of trade is ongoing with exports being accompanied by certificates issued by local authorities.

Defra has been informed of a recently issued export-related notification, India's

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Order F. No. 1829/Health Certificate/FSSAI/Imports (notified to the World Trade Organization on August 18, 2022, as G/TBT/N/IND/233), which requires that from 1 November 2022, fish and fish products, imported into India must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country.

The overall objective of the measure under this notification appears to be to ensure the safety and quality of food products imported into India.

We are currently engaging with the British High Commission in India to seek constructive engagement with India's FSSAI on this issue, with a view to minimising disruption to trade.

Recommendations

The revised implementation date of 1 January 2023 means that any consignments of fish & fishery products already despatched to India on pre-existing non-APHA certification should arrive before the new deadline.

However, Defra recommends caution in issuing any new certification, in spite of the extension; consideration should be given to whether any new consignment certified would arrive in India by or before 31 December 2022.

We would be grateful if, as a matter of urgency, FCCOs could communicate this updated message to any colleagues who are not FCCOs but might be certifying such certificates.

Further Information

Any queries relating to this briefing note should be sent to: exports@apha.gov.uk