

File No. 1-1223/FSSAI/Imports/2014
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(Imports Division)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110002

The 1st February, 2015

Subject: Guidelines for import of food articles meant for exhibition and tasting purposes - reg.

The FSSAI has received a reference from the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), and representations from Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and Wi-Not Beverage Solutions Pvt. Ltd regarding permission for clearance of the imported food articles meant for exhibition purposes in the context of ensuing Aahar -2015, the International Food & Hospitality Fair, from march 10-14, 2015 at Pragati maidan, New Dehi.

2. Composite Guidelines dated 10.01.2014 were issued for Authorised Officers vide letter no. 1-595/ FSSAI/ Imports/ 2013, which, interalia, contained instructions in this behalf stating as under:

"Food Articles imported by individuals/Companies /Firms etc., intended for display in a trade fair, exhibition or elsewhere and referred to FSSAI by Customs will be cleared on production of an affidavit that after the conclusion of the event, these food articles will be destroyed as per the prevailing law or re-exported to the Country of Origin. The Bill of Entry must clearly state that the food articles are intended to be imported for display purposes in a trade fair, exhibition or elsewhere as the case may be and the request to FSSAI must be accompanied by a document from the Customs Authorities to such effect. Such imports shall be treated out of FICS."

3. It may be noted that the "tasting" of food products imported for the exhibition purposes was not specifically mentioned in the above guidelines. However, exhibitors have requested that the imported food products, meant for exhibition purposes, be allowed for 'tasting' during the exhibition.

4. As of now, the imported food products referred to FSSAI for clearance by the Custom Authorities are subjected to inspection, sampling and testing as per parameters laid down by the FSSAI for ensuring safety of food products.

5. The representations have been examined and it has been observed that the food being imported for exhibition purposes has a limited purpose of 'display and tasting' at a disclosed venue for a fixed time period. It is not meant or intended for retail sale in the open market. Notwithstanding the same, it is important to take adequate precautions qua the safety of food products offered for tasting purposes along side the exhibition thereof. Considering the above facts, it has been decided as under:

(i) The food imported for the purposes of exhibition shall be exempted from the normal clearance procedures of the FSSAI;

