

## **FSSAI allows FBOs to import Inborn Errors of Metabolism food products until June 2021**

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The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to allow food businesses to import food products for Inborn Errors of Metabolism (IEM) conditions until June 2021, after which the FBOs need to comply with the notified regulations.

The FSSAI has issued direction in this regard saying that earlier direction is superseded by this notification, and it has been decided to allow the import of foods products for IEM condition, till June 30, 2021.

According to the FSSAI, in the absence of the standards, as an interim measure, IEM foods were allowed based on direction under Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

“However, the newly notified Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020 covers the standards of Foods for Infants with IEM and Hypoallergenic infant milk substitutes and the same will be implementable from July 1, 2021. Thus, the direction is made applicable till June 30, 2021. Thereafter, FBOs including importers are allowed to market these foods with compliance to the specified standards under aforesaid regulations,” FSSAI’s statement read.

The FSSAI has also laid condition for the import of such food products, which include that the importing firm would submit to FSSAI well in advance, all the necessary documents related to the composition, label and claims for the product they intend to import. FSSAI after due examination, would allow the import of such foods on a case by case basis.

Once a particular composition, label and claims is permitted by FSSAI for import, future consignments strictly adhering to the requirements can be imported on the basis of this on time permission.

Also, the laid condition added that labels on these foods shall clearly mention the medical conditions for which they have to be used. And, the importer/manufacturer of such foods shall ensure that they are consumed only under supervision of health care professionals.

These conditions will also apply to domestically produced specialty food products for which FSSAI shall grant permission after due examination.

It is pertinent to mention that under Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 dated November 2, 2016 for two years or till their standards are notified, whichever is earlier regarding import and manufacturing of foods required for management of Inborn Errors of Metabolism (IEM) and Hypoallergenic Conditions.

The compliance was extended till May 1, 2021 or till their standards are notified, whichever is earlier.