

MILK & MILK PRODUCT LEGISLATION

(ACT & RULES, ORDER) IN INDIA

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Sources-FSSAI

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE (GRADING AND MARKETING) ACT (1937)

- “AGMARK” is an abbreviated form of “Agricultural Marking” which provides quality standards for grading, packing and marking of agricultural and animal husbandry products through the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937, as amended in 1986.
- The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection under the Department of Rural Development in the Ministry of Agriculture is vested with the responsibility to enforce and implement the Act.
- The latest amendment made in 1986 provides penalty and redressal for unauthorized marking, counterfeiting and selling misgraded articles.
- At present three dairy products viz. ghee, butter and fat spread are graded under this scheme.
- The Directorate of Marketing & Inspection which is an attached office of the Department of Rural Development. Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is performing several functions in the field of agricultural marketing. One of its important functions is in the field of standardization, grading and quality control of agricultural and allied commodities.
- The Act empowers the Central Government to frame grade standards with

relevant definitions of quality and notify them in the Gazette of India in respect of such of those agricultural and allied commodities which are included in the schedule to the said Act.

- The rules provide for redressal of the grievances and complaints of the consumers of Agmark products.
- If the Agmark product purchased is found defective and if the complaint is found genuine on investigation, the purchaser will be supplied free of cost replacement of the product or reimbursement of the cost.
- For this purpose, the complainant must give full details of the product purchased, the name of the shop, particulars of Agmark label number, place of packaging, trade brand name etc.
- The complainant has the option to get the sample analyzed in any other laboratory recognized by the Directorate.
- Detailed procedure and stringent conditions are provided for issue of certificate of authorization (C.A.) to parties intending to take up Agmark grading, the renewal, the cancellation and the issue of duplicate C.A. Laboratory for analysis.
- Detailed procedures are included regarding the conditions governing the approval of laboratories to undertake analysis and testing for quality assessment of the Agmark products.
- Necessary provisions are included making it obligatory on the part of packers to provide information regarding the grading activities to the DMI. Supply of unagmarked goods.
- The amended Act provides for higher degree of penalty in the case of traders indulging in unauthorized marking with grade designation mark, counterfeiting grade designation mark, selling misgraded articles and selling a scheduled commodity covered under compulsory grading without affixing Agmark.
- The penalty is imprisonment up to 6 months and fines not exceeding Rs. 5000/

except in the case of counterfeiting grade designation mark where the imprisonment is up to 3 years.

- These new provisions have been made to discourage the supply of sub-standard, misgraded and counterfeiting of quality goods and thereby to protect the interests of the consumers.
- Only three dairy products, viz. ghee, butter and butter-spread are included under **AGMARK** standards

Milk and Milk Products order: (MMPO)

- The MMPO 1992 is regulatory order of the Government of India, under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for control of production, supply and distribution of milk and milk products to maintain or increase supply of liquid milk to public.
- Various provisions of the order are compulsory registration, definition of milk sheets, restriction on uneven procurement and marketing of milk, strict rates of production, hygienic conditions, packing, labeling and marketing, penalty etc help in protection and growth of the organized dairy industry.

THE STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AND RULES

The Standards of Weights and Measures (SWM) Act (1976) and SWM (Packaged Commodities) Rules(1977)

- Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs governs these Acts / Rules which describe provision for labeling declaration and quantity to be packed.
- Under the Act / Rule it is necessary to declare on each package the name and address of the manufacturer, the net quantity, month / year of manufacture, sale price etc.
- Every manufacturer should be registered with the Director, Legal Metrology, Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, New Delhi.

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS 1986)

- The BIS was (formerly known as ISI) established under provision of Indian Standards Act, 1987 and took over the functions, assets and liabilities erstwhile ISI functioning from 1947. It is the statutory body under Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumers Affairs and Public Distribution, Government of India.
- The main functions of BIS are standard formulations, operation of certification mark scheme, recognition of laboratory, publications, national/international co-operation and co-ordination and other promotional and extension activities to familiarize the standards.
- The BIS has revised and formulated new standards for some dairy products viz., code of pasteurization (IS:6397-1992), pasteurized milk (IS:13688-1992), pasteurized butter (IS: 13690-1992), butter oil/butter fat (IS: 13689-1992), skimmed milk powder – standard (IS: 134-1992). More emphasis is laid on microbial requirements in recent revision and formulation.
- Recently, the bureau has launched a quality management system certification scheme to develop the industry and to protect the environment ECOMARK scheme for environment friendly products.