



United States
Department of
Agriculture

January 25, 2021

Office of
Agricultural
Affairs

American
Embassy

Shanti Path,
Chanakya Puri
New Delhi
110 021
INDIA

Telephone:
+ 91-11-
2419-8769/8000

Facsimile:
+ 91-11-
2419-8530

Electronic mail:
[agnewdelhi@fas.
usda.gov](mailto:agnewdelhi@fas.usda.gov)

India- FSSAI Certificate of Origin Guidance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in New Delhi, India herein provides guidance to U.S. industry members on recent Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) conditions for the issuing Certificate of Origin (CoO) documentation for U.S. apples. As each U.S. Chamber of Commerce in the United States utilizes its own unique format, stamp, seal, and signature, FAS New Delhi prescribes the following recommendations for U.S. industry. This information derives from FAS New Delhi's conversation with the FSSAI on CoO documentation.

1. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has neither a prescribed format for CoO issuance, nor has stipulated on its website that the CoO issued by the American World Trade Chamber of Commerce is the only, sole acceptable version for India. Please be aware that CoO issuance should be undertaken by an organization that does not have a vested interest with the exporter in the consignment/product. For example, in the case of a local U.S. chamber of commerce as the issuing authority, the certificate of origin should be issued on its letterhead with the customary original signature and seal and a reference identification number (a certificate number) that clearly verifies CoO authenticity.
2. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has provided assurances that no shipments should be delayed due to CoO formatting concerns. However, in the event there are delays, we recommend that the importer provide this office with the bill of entry details. FAS New Delhi will contact FSSAI authorities who will check their system and act to release it accordingly. Currently, FSSAI is releasing shipments after the importer/clearing house agents uploads an undertaking (i.e., commitment) that all their future shipments will be accompanied by the CoO in the appropriate format and include an identification (certificate) number for verification.

For any questions, please contact the FAS New Delhi office at AGnewdelhi@state.gov.

Sincerely,

Ronald P. Verdonk
Minister-Counselor for Agricultural Affairs
Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy New Delhi