

Guidelines /SOP for export of Food Supplements containing botanicals for EU and UK

The Export Inspection Council (EIC) was set up by Government of India under Section 3 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 (22 of 1963), in order to ensure sound development of export trade of India through Quality Control and Inspection and for matters connected thereof.

The European Union wide Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2246 of 15 December 2021 required that Food Supplements containing botanicals (Food) [HS Code 1302 and 2106] from India for export to EU should be accompanied by an official certificate issued by Competent Authority stating that results of sampling and analysis are in compliance to maximum residue level of ethylene oxide for the consignment and results of analysis should be attached to that certificate.

Directorate General of Foreign Trade ((DGFT), Department of Commerce, Government of India vide Notification No.22/2023 dated 31 July 2023 has amended the export policy of Food Supplements containing botanical and states as below:

“The export of Food Supplements containing botanicals to European Union (EU) and United Kingdom (UK) originating in or consigned from India and intended for human or animal consumption, allowed subject to issuance of the official certificate issued by Export Inspection Council (EIC)/Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs), the designated Competent Authority for issuance of official certificate. The official certificate will be issued based on the satisfactory analytical test report from EIC/EIC approved laboratories for the purpose as per the requirement laid down by the EU.”

Therefore, in order to facilitate export of Food Supplements containing botanicals from India to EU and UK as per DGFT Notification and ensuring compliance to the EU requirements, the EIC specifies the following procedures/guidelines:

1. The general procedure to be followed for issuance of Official Certificate for export of Food Supplements containing botanicals will be same as laid down in EIC’s Voluntary Certificate Scheme [Document No. EIC/ Vol. Certification Scheme / 2017/Issue 5 – < <https://www.eicindia.gov.in/WebApp1/resources/PDF/ExecutiveInstructionsVCS2023.pdf>> , as amended from time to time] unless otherwise specified.
2. Each consignment of Food Supplement containing botanicals should be sampled and tested for compliance to the maximum residue level of ethylene oxide (sum of ethylene oxide and 2-chloro-ethanol, expressed as ethylene oxide) as per EU requirement.
3. The official certificate will be issued based on satisfactory analytical test report from EIC’s laboratories or EIC approved laboratories for the purpose. List of EIC/EIC approved laboratories is available on EIC’s website [\[https://www.eicindia.gov.in/WebApp1/pages/menuInfo/Lab_List.xhtml\]](https://www.eicindia.gov.in/WebApp1/pages/menuInfo/Lab_List.xhtml)]
4. The format for official certificate shall be as per Annexure IV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 dated 22 October 2019 (as amended from time to time).
5. The exporter intending to obtain Official Certificate for export of Food Supplement containing botanicals may contact the nearest Export Inspection Agency (EIA) along with requisite documents. The list of EIA Offices & Sub-Offices is available on EIC’s website [\[https://www.eicindia.gov.in/WebApp1/pages/menuInfo/contactUs.xhtml\]](https://www.eicindia.gov.in/WebApp1/pages/menuInfo/contactUs.xhtml)].