



ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
BHUTAN FOOD AND DRUG AUTHORITY



BFDA/FQSD/2025-2026/1-72/1118

Date: February 2, 2026

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

In accordance with Sections 62–64 of the Food Act of Bhutan 2005, relating to the regulation and control of imported food, the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA) under the Ministry of Health hereby notifies the general public, food business operators, importers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers as follows:

In order to strengthen the national food safety system and ensure the sustained availability of safe, quality, and nutritionally adequate food, the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA) shall implement a phased Import Control System. This system shall be fully risk-based, grounded in comprehensive risk profiling of food commodities, the compliance history of importers as established through national surveillance and monitoring programmes, and the level of regulatory assurance provided by competent authorities in exporting countries.

As an initial phase, the import control and permitting system shall be applied to high-risk and nutritionally significant food commodities, namely Rice, Fortified Rice and Iodized Salt, with a view to progressively expanding coverage based on risk and regulatory capacity.

With effect from 1st June, 2026, all food business operators or importers dealing in the above-mentioned commodities shall be required to comply with the prescribed food safety and quality requirements, including but not limited to:

- Mandatory registration of importers in accordance with the Food Act of Bhutan 2005 and its Rules and Regulations;
- Compliance with applicable food safety standards and specifications;
- Product registration and approval, where applicable;
- Compliance with labeling and fortification requirements;
- Inspection, monitoring, and testing under the national food control system.

Any non-compliance with this notification shall be subject to regulatory actions as provided under the Food Act of Bhutan 2005 and its associated Rules and Regulations.

This notification is issued in the interest of safeguarding public health, strengthening nutrition security, and supporting Bhutan's national food safety and One Health objectives. For further clarification, stakeholders may contact the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority during official working hours at toll free number 1555 or inspection-body@bfda.gov.bt.

DIRECTOR

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