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Ref.No.MAIT/PY/2413

December 21, 2021

Ms. Leena Nandan, IAS
Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Subject: Request regarding the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2021

Respected Madam,

Greetings from MAIT!

This is in reference to the recently released Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2021 vide GSR 779(E), dated 2nd November 2021. We would like to bring to your notice the changes made through clause 5(i) whereat it mentions that “*in clause d of Rule 6 the words, —or pre-packed or imported shall be omitted*”

This would imply that all the pre-packaged commodities including spare parts shall need to mandatorily include the Month and Year in which the commodity is manufactured and the flexibility to mention the date of packaging or importing is taken away.

While we appreciate the intent of the amendment, which may be relevant for few sectors which provide perishable goods to consumer, however, for a consumer durable industry this amendment is very onerous.

We would like to share some insights which may help you appreciate the complexity of tracing such products at manufacturing level especially for the spare parts:

- Spare parts are being manufactured at multiple geographies across the globe
- Some spare parts are as small as 2 mm screws/ ICs in size
- Parts are being produced in factories where major share is for the production of finished products i.e. TV, Washing Machine, Refrigerator, Air conditioners & Mobile and only limited spare parts are produced for after sales & service in these locations
- As of now, Spare part wise manufacturing month & year information is not recorded in any of the systems to be captured on the packaging label

Until the latest amendment, as per the previous rules, there was a flexibility provided in terms of mentioning month & year of manufacturing or pre-packaging or import. We have thus been fully compliant to the Legal Metrology Rules, as the month & year of either of the three was duly mentioned on all the Pre-Packaged commodities.

Given the challenges of the global supply chains and the nature of the product (which is non-perishable), we humbly request you to consider our recommendations as below:

- 1) Retain the term “**pre-packaged or imported**” in the clause 6 (d) as it was in the original rules to mention the details of month and Year of either of the three, but with a clarity that on imported products, either of the three can be mentioned and Department should not insist the month and year of import on imported goods and even on imported products, month and year of manufacture is allowed.

OR

- 2) Provide an exception for non-perishable products to continue using the term **month & year of Pre-packaging or import or Manufacturing** on the packaging label.

Last, but not the least, **we request you to put the implementation date of April 1, 2022, into abeyance till the above-mentioned matter is closed. We would request for a circular/OM to that effect to allay the risk of non-perishable product manufacturers (electronics industry in our case) being non-compliant.**

Your kind consideration will go a long way in ease of doing business in the IT and electronic sector. We continue to ensure that we make sure that the consumers' interest is protected. **We will be more than happy to discuss and explain in detail, as per your convenience.**

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Paul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "P".

George Paul
Chief Executive Officer