LEGAL METROLOGY

Edible oil packs get standard sizes from 200 g to 20 kg

A Legal Metrology advisory of June 5, 2026 sets out standard pack sizes from 200 g to 20 kg for nine major edible oils and their blends, domestic and imported.

THE WEIGHTS AND Measures Unit of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, wrote to the Controllers of Legal Metrology of all States and Union Territories on June 5, 2026, in advisory I-10/11/2024-W&M (E-35106). Its subject is an amendment to the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) dated December 29, 2023 "for determination of net quantity and standard pack sizes for Edible Oils & Fats under the Legal Metrology framework". The SoP, enclosed with the advisory and posted the same day, is titled "Determination of the Net Quantity of Commodities (Edible Oils & Fats) contained in any Package". The advisory inserts a new paragraph 6, "Standard Pack Sizes for Edible Oils", after its paragraph 5. The Department says it acted on representations and suggestions from stakeholders and industry associations about the "proliferation of varying package quantities in edible oils", to promote consumer clarity, transparency and ease of price comparison. Ashutosh Agarwal, Director (Legal Metrology), signed it.

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Advisory I-10/11/2024-W&M (E-35106)

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Paragraph 6(i) covers the "major edible oils": palm oil or palmolein, soybean oil, sunflower oil, mustard/rapeseed oil, groundnut oil, sesame oil, rice bran oil, cottonseed oil, corn oil and their blends. For these it recommends standard pack sizes of 200 g, 500 g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg, 4 kg, 5 kg, 15 kg and 20 kg. Where the net quantity is declared by volume, the sizes are 200 ml, 500 ml and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 15 and 20 liters, and the net quantity must also be declared by weight in the same size of letters and numerals. For packs below 200 g or 200 ml, its table says "No restriction"; for the listed sizes it says "Standard packaging applicable".

Minor edible oils, those not listed in 6(i), "shall remain exempt from the standard pack size requirement". Their packages, and those of the major oils, must still comply with the applicable provisions on declaring the unit sale price (USP) under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. Paragraph 6(iii) says that wherever edible oil is declared by volume, in liters or milliliters, the package must also declare the equivalent quantity by weight, in kg or g, as determined under the Fourth Schedule of those Rules. The provisions apply uniformly to domestically manufactured and imported edible oils. Net quantity, sampling, testing and error evaluation for these packages continue under the procedure prescribed in the SoP.

Manufacturers, packers and importers may adopt the prescribed pack sizes immediately, and a transition period of three months from the date of issue of the amendment is available for compliance. The advisory prints no end date. Counted from its date of issue, June 5, 2026, the three months ran to September 5, 2026.

The advisory calls the sizes "recommended" in paragraph 6(i), while 6(ii) and 6(vi) speak of a "standard pack size requirement" and a transition period "for compliance". Its subject covers edible oils and fats, but paragraph 6 names oils only and lists no fats. It names no minor edible oil, sets no penalty, and does not say how packs of other sizes, made or imported before the

transition period ends, are to be treated. It amends the SoP, not the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

Issued by	Weights and Measures Unit, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Document	Advisory I-10/11/2024-W&M (E-35106)
Dated	June 5, 2026
Addressed to	Controllers of Legal Metrology, all States/UTs; copy to all stakeholders
Amends	SoP dated December 29, 2023, "Determination of the Net Quantity of Commodities (Edible Oils & Fats) contained in any Package": new paragraph 6 after paragraph 5
Oils covered	Palm oil or palmolein, soybean oil, sunflower oil, mustard/rapeseed oil, groundnut oil, sesame oil, rice bran oil, cottonseed oil, corn oil and their blends
Standard pack sizes	200 g, 500 g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg, 4 kg, 5 kg, 15 kg and 20 kg; by volume, 200 ml, 500 ml and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 15 and 20 liters
Below 200 g or 200 ml	No restriction
Volume declarations	Net quantity also declared by weight, in the same size of letters and numerals
Minor edible oils	Exempt from the standard pack size requirement; unit sale price provisions still apply
Applies to	Domestically manufactured and imported edible oils
Takes effect	Sizes may be adopted immediately; a transition period of three months from the date of issue for compliance
Signed by	Ashutosh Agarwal, Director (Legal Metrology)

Paragraph 6(i): standard pack sizes for the major edible oils

S. No.	Package size	Applicability
(a)	Below 200 g or 200 ml	No restriction
(b)	200 g, 500 g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg, 4 kg, 5 kg, 15 kg, 20 kg. If net quantity is declared by volume: 200 ml, 500 ml, 1 liter, 2 liter, 3 liter, 4 liter, 5 liter, 15 liter, 20 liter, with the net quantity also declared by weight in the same size of letters and numerals	Standard packaging applicable

The advisory (PDF, 726 KB)

Source: Legal Metrology's own copy.

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