

Food Safety Bulletin

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January 2023

FSSAI extends the date of implementation of directions to operationalize Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations with regard to Packaged Drinking Water (other than mineral water).

FSSAI vide letter dated 3 January 2023 issued a direction in reference to operationalizing Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations for Total Dissolved Solids, Calcium and Magnesium. The authority acknowledged receipt of representations from stakeholders who sought transition time for said implementation. The date had been extended to 1 July 2023 or until final notification of draft regulations, whichever is earlier.

FSSAI issues advisory to the food safety commissioners to check scope of testing and validity of primary notified/referral laboratory recognized under Section 43(1) & (2) of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSS Act) before sending food samples for analysis.

FSSAI vide letter dated 4 January 2023 issued an advisory to check the scope of testing and validity of laboratories where food samples are sent for analysis. It was noted by the authority that food samples are being sent for analysis to laboratories not authorized to analyze said samples. It was also pointed out that legal proceedings based on such analysis reports have been treated as null and void in a legal proceeding.

Hence, Food Safety Officers have been advised that the scope of testing and validity of laboratories ought to be checked diligently before sending samples for analysis. It will ensure that such samples are treated as valid in any legal proceeding.

FSSAI issues direction regarding the re-operationalization of Food and Safety Standards (Labeling and Display) Amendment Regulations, 2022 with regard to labeling requirements.

FSSAI vide letter Dated 6 January 2023 issued a direction regarding the re-operationalization of the draft regulations in relation to labeling requirements. It noted that through an earlier notification, comments were invited from stakeholders for the finalization of the draft regulations based on such comments, approval of which delayed the effectuation of said regulations.

It declared thus that the said re-operationalization has come in effect from 1 January 2023.

FSSAI notifies approval of Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAFT) Kit/Equipment/Method through FSSAI registration.

FSSAI vide letter dated 9 January 2023 notified the approval of Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAFT) Kit/Equipment/Method by registration under FSSAI. The authority has requested desirous commercial manufacturers to apply for such approval through a revised application format attached with the order. It pointed out certain requirements in the application to be fulfilled by applicants failing which applications might be rejected. The authority for applications has prescribed mandatory signature, complete data on verification of RAFT and a 30-day limitation period for such information to be submitted, validation of RAFT in accordance with International guidelines, information on instruments used for analysis, and an online application fee.

The authority has also prescribed a 60-day period for submitting declaration forms and fees to renew a RAFT application and that all the above applications are to be sent through email until the online RAFT portal is operational.

FSSAI extends the date to comply with health certification requirements for milk, fish and pork products.

FSSAI vide letter dated 10 January 2023 extended the date of implementing compliance with health certification requirements for fish and fish products, milk and milk products and pork and pork products. The authority noted that many partners are still in the process of adopting it and extended the date of implementing said compliance to 1 March 2023.

FSSAI amends the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011

The FSSAI vide a Gazette Notification dated 11 January 2023 notified the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2023.

The amendment *inter alia* modifies the regulations pertaining to the General Standards for Milk and Milk Products, food for infant nutrition, coconut products, lemon, rice, extenders, binders, chocolate, introduces several provisions pertaining to "Basmati Rice", etc.

The amendment also introduces limits of formaldehyde in seafood.

The amendment will come into effect on 1 August 2023.

*see notification for further details

FSSAI issues advisory regarding escalation matrix for grievance redressal related to licensing applications.

FSSAI issued an advisory vide [letter dated 11 January 2023](#) notifying the escalation matrix to raise grievances related to licensing applications. The authority notified that for central licensing procedures, Central Licensing Authorities (CLA) have been appointed and in case, Food Business Operators (FBO) are aggrieved by the decision of the CLA, grievances could be raised with the concerned regional director.

It further notified that if in such cases, either the FBO wants to further represent the case after receiving comments from the regional director or if no comments have been received from the regional director within 21 days of making the request, then the grievances could be raised with the Executive Director (Compliance Strategy), FSSAI.

FSSAI issues orders regarding instant renewal of license and registration as part of ease of doing business.

FSSAI vide [letter dated 11 January 2023](#) issued an order regarding streamlining the process of licensing and registration for instant renewal. It noted that the current process required lengthy scrutiny of applications which took additional time and effort and is increasing by the day.

Hence, it notified that the renewal of licenses will now be granted instantly upon the submission of the application without scrutiny. The authority also prescribed conditions subject to which the renewal stands concerning the validity of licenses and registration and a time window of 180 days for renewal before expiry.

FSSAI issues notice regarding import of high-risk food products at specific ports.

FSSAI vide [letter dated 11 January 2023](#) issued a notice regarding entry of high risk food items under specific ports in reference to comments from stakeholders on the said matter. The authority notified that in order to ensure efficient monitoring of high-risk products, it decided that only the import of products specified in the present order will be allowed through only the designated ports.

The authority also notified that the order shall come in effect on 1 March 2023.

FSSAI issues order regarding mandatory lab testing reports (six monthly) to manufacturers including repackers and relabellers.

FSSAI vide [letter dated 13 January 2023](#) issued an order mandating upload or linking of lab testing report on FoSCos to manufacturers. It was clarified by the authority that this order arises out of Conditions of License no. 12 of Schedule 2 of FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 which specifies mandatory testing of chemical contaminants in food products on a bi-annual basis.

Hence, to bring in transparency, the authority mandated that all manufacturers shall, through FosCos, either upload bi-annually testing reports as per condition 12 or link such reports from the InFoLNET wherever such testing has been done by FSSAI notified laboratories. The last date for such an upload of a link was notified to be 31 March 2023.

FSSAI issues order regarding appellate authority in respect of the General Administration and Policy Coordination Division.

FSSAI vide [letter dated 17 January 2023](#) issued an order regarding the appellate authority for General Administration and Policy Coordination Division. It notified that with the approval of competent authority, charge of appellate authority for matters of General Administration and Policy Coordination Division is given to Shri Parveen Jargar, Joint Director until such time as Shri Ankeshwar Mishra, Joint Director (GA) resumes office.

FSSAI notifies the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Financial) Regulations, 2023

Vide a [notification dated 20 January 2023](#), the FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Financial) Regulations, 2023 for governing the funds of the FSSAI.

FSSAI issues order declaring Appellate Authority for Regulatory Compliance Division (RCD) and QA Division.

FSSAI vide [Letter dated 23 January, 2023](#) issued an order declaring CPIOs and appellate authorities for RCD and QA Division. It notified that for RCD (Licensing Unit) Sh. Akhilesh Gupta, Assistant Director has been appointed as the CPIO and Sh. Rakesh Kumar, Director as appellate authority. It was further notified that for the QA Division Ms. Pritha Ghosh, Deputy Director has been appointed as the CPIO and Dr. Ajai Prakash Gupta, Director as appellate authority.

FSSAI issues notice to food safety commissioners regarding misleading products in the market in the name of "ghee/butter".

FSSAI vide letter dated 23 January 2023 issued an advisory to food safety commissioners regarding misleading products under the name of "ghee/butter". It was noted by the authority that dairy terms like "plant-based ghee/butter, vegan ghee/butter etc." are being used by certain FBOs for non-dairy products and have been made available in the market. It was clarified that products like Ghee, Butter cannot be claimed to be vegan foods without prior approval of the food authority. It was further clarified that as per Sub-Regulation 2.1.1(3)(f) of FSS Regulations, 2011, a non-dairy product cannot be sold as a dairy product under any deceptive name.

Hence, the authority requested all officers to immediately check labels of such products being sold in their respective jurisdictions and to take enforcement actions against such FBOs.

February 2023

FSSAI notifies the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Second Amendment Regulations, 2023 (Gazette Notification).

FSSAI vide a notification dated 21 February 2023, made amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 thereby amending the standards *inter alia* for milk, oils, desiccated coconut, wheat flour or resultant wheat flour, millets, mithun (*bos frontalis*), dried sweet marjoram, coconut neera, liquid nitrogen dosing in 'natural mineral water' and 'packaged drinking water', substances added to food, microbiological standards etc. The notification also includes the implications in case of non-compliance by the Food Business Operator (FBO) along with the sampling plan and guidelines, etc.

This notification has also specified a comprehensive group standard for millets. This notification will be enforceable from 1 September 2023.

Refer to the notification for detailed description.

FSSAI issues direction under Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 regarding enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Second Amendment Regulations, 2022.

FSSAI vide direction dated 27 February 2023, extended the enforcement of the sub-Regulation (7) of regulation 4 of Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Second Amendment Regulations, 2022. The extension was granted due to the representations received by the stakeholders to make changes to the packaging materials for implementing the sub-regulation. The extension is operative for six months from the date of issue of the notification.

FSSAI issues enforcement order regarding compliance with the standards for Non-Carbonated Water Based Beverage (Non-alcoholic) under Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

FSSAI vide a letter dated 12 January 2023 (uploaded on 1 February 2023), directed the authorities to review the compliance of the FBOs pertaining to the licensed products for Non-Carbonated Water Based Beverage (Non-alcoholic) and issue notices to all the non-compliant FBOs directing them to either rectify the product formulation or labelling that would be in accordance with the regulatory compliance. In case of failure to do so, the FBOs shall cease to manufacture such products in light of non-compliance.

FSSAI issues order suspending the QTTL Lab Private Limited, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

FSSAI vide an order dated 1 February 2023, suspended the QTTL Lab, Indore, Madhya Pradesh for a period of six months given that the aforementioned laboratory was indulging in practices that are not-permissible under law.

FSSAI issues order suspending the Krishna Digital Material Testing Laboratory, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

FSSAI vide an order dated 1 February 2023, suspended the Krishna Digital Material Testing Laboratory, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh for a period of six months given that the aforementioned laboratory was indulging in practices that are not-permissible under law.

FSSAI issues validity order pertaining to a list of FSSAI recognized laboratories.

FSSAI vide a Letter dated 8 February 2023, produced a list of FSSAI recognized laboratories along with the validity of their NABL accreditation scope of testing and their contact details for the purpose of carrying out the analysis of food samples taken under the FSS Act and rules and regulations. The validity of such laboratories shall be governed by the guidelines or orders issued by FSSAI from time to time.

FSSAI issues an order updating the rate of testing fee (uploaded on 8 February 2023).

FSSAI vide a letter dated 3 November 2021, prescribed an updated testing fees that would be uniformly applicable for both the domestic and imported samples. The updated testing fees will be applicable on the samples drawn by the Authorized Officers and will be tested by the laboratories notified by the FSSAI under Section 43 of FSS Act.

Subsequently, a corrigendum order dated 19 January 2023, was updated regarding the partial modification with respect to the order related to the revised rate of testing fee.

FSSAI issues an order to reduce the initial application fee for the FSSAI license as a part of ease of doing business.

FSSAI vide a letter dated 10 February 2023, bifurcated the license fee for the initial application for FSSAI License to INR 1,000 plus GST (as applicable) initially and the remainder to be paid later. Prior to this order, the application fee for the FSSAI license was a consolidated amount payable by the FBO without any provision for refund if the application gets rejected by the Licensing Authority.

The differential amounts have to be paid by the FBOs with 30 days from the approval of the license. This order will only be applicable in case of the issuance of new licenses.

FSSAI issues direction for suspending the compliance of quality parameters 'alcoholic acidity' and 'total dietary fibre' in bajra flour (pearl millet flour), jowar flour (sorghum flour), multigrain flour (atta), mixed millet flour and re-operationalization of the revised 'moisture content' specifications for mixed millet flour under the Sections 16(5) and 18(2)(d) of FSS Act.

FSSAI vide a letter dated 15 February 2023 has directed that since the data submitted by the stakeholders is being examined, the suspension of enforcement of relevant provisions ('alcoholic acidity' and 'total dietary fibre') will continue till 30 June 2023 and be re-operationalized with effect from 27 January 2023. Furthermore, the 'moisture content' specifications for mixed millet flour are revised to 13%.

FSSAI issues order regarding the de-recognition and de-notification of the in-house testing laboratories of the FBOs.

FSSAI vide a letter dated 14 February 2023, decided to not notify any of the in-house testing laboratories of the FBOs. The grounds mentioned for issuing the order were conflict of interest, location of such labs within manufacturing area of FBO, presence of Directors of FBO in the constitution of Board of Management and difficulty in regular monitoring and verification of minor details of the in-house laboratory.

FSSAI issues validity order that pertains to a list of FSSAI recognized laboratories.

FSSAI vide a letter dated 15 February 2023, produced a list of FSSAI recognized laboratories along with the validity of their National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation scope of testing and their contact details for the purpose of carrying out the analysis of food samples taken under the FSS Act and rules and regulations. Furthermore, such validity shall be governed by the guidelines or orders issued by FSSAI from time to time.

FSSAI issues order to revoke the suspension of food testing laboratories.

FSSAI vide a notice dated 23 February 2023, revoked the suspension of two laboratories with immediate effect i.e., (i) Centre for Environment and Food Technology Private Limited (ii) Konark Research Foundation.

FSSAI issues notice for implementation of traceability application under Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) Initiative.

In order to promote the ease of doing business, the FSSAI vide a [notice dated 24 February 2023](#) has introduced the RUCO initiative to track the whole RUCO ecosystem, generate UCO disposal requests, enroll NFP units, recognize aggregators requested by Non Food Production (NFP) units, monitor transactions and generate data and reports on real time basis.

The link to access the traceability application is available on the RUCO website along with tutorial videos and user manuals. It is to be noted the Traceability Application will be made live from 15 March 2023.

FSSAI issues order for extension of requirement of health certificate to be accompanied with the import of food consignment.

FSSAI vide [order dated 24 February 2023](#), extends the date of implementation of the order dated 10 January 2023 until further order in the light of representations from various countries and other stakeholders.

FSSAI issues notification revising the guidelines for submission of applications for endorsement of vegan logo and formats.

FSSAI vide [order dated 24 February 2023](#), revised the guidelines for submission of applications for endorsement of vegan logo and formats. It is to be noted that these guidelines override the guidelines dated 25 July 2022 for submission of applications for endorsement of vegan logo and formats. The revised guidelines are provided in the order through annexures.

Kindly refer to the notification for detailed description.

FSSAI issues Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on application for Vegan logo endorsement.

FSSAI vide an [annexure dated 27 February 2023](#), issued FAQs about the application of Vegan logo endorsement. The annexure has questions relating to who can apply for the endorsements, multiple application or single application for the products, mode of payment, etc.

Refer to the notification for detailed description.

March 2023

FSSAI directs the Food Safety Commissioners of all states to carry out on-the-spot food testing for various food products including milk and milk products using Food Safety on Wheels (FSW) mobile food testing labs.

FSSAI vide a letter dated 3 March 2023, had directed the Commissioners of Food Safety of all States to use the 168 available Food Safety on Wheels (FSW) mobile testing labs and ensure that testing of at least 10 samples of milk and/or milk products are carried out through every FSW on daily basis on account of Holi celebrations.

The testing was to be carried out with respect to fat, SNF, protein, adulterant, water, urea, sucrose, maltodextrin and ammonium sulphate.

FSSAI appoints Designated Officers for the Indian Railways.

Vide Office orders dated 3 March 2023 and 21 March 2023, the FSSAI has appointed Dr Anju Bharti, Sh Adesh Kumar, Sh Jasvendar Kumar and Sh Shaikh Nadim Ejaz as the Designated Officer for Indian Railways

FSSAI doubles down on quality/safety enforcement of Nutraceutical/Health Supplement products being sold in markets.

FSSAI vide a letter dated 7 March 2023 has directed the Food Safety Commissioners, Licensing Authorities and Directors to ensure a tight vigil on the manufacturing and sale of the nutraceutical/health supplement and carry out a special enforcement drive to ensure compliance with respect to the said products.

The directions have been issued in light of the fact that many products being sold in the market are non-compliant with the FSSAI regulations and are being marketed with false/misleading claims.

FSSAI issues an order facilitating timely processing and clearance of imported consignments of food grains including pulses and edible crude oil.

Vide an order issued on 7 March 2023, the FSSAI has directed Regional Directors and Director/Commissioners (customs) to facilitate and carry out import clearance of imported consignments of food grains including pulses and edible crude oil without any delay.

The order has been issued pursuant to references received from the Department of Consumer Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture.

FSSAI issues validity order pertaining to a list of FSSAI recognised laboratories.

FSSAI vide a [letter dated 9 March 2023](#), issued a list of FSSAI recognised laboratories along with the validity of their NABL accreditation scope of testing and their contact details for the purpose of carrying out the analysis of food samples taken under the FSS Act and rules and regulations.

FSSAI issues a press release encouraging the States/Union Territories to step up surveillance, inspections, and sampling food products to curb adulteration during the season of festivals, weddings and other events.

Vide a [press release dated 10 March 2023](#), the States/UTs have been advised to plan their special surveillance drive considering the rise of food poisoning and adulteration cases of commonly consumed food products during the seasons like festivals, marriages, events etc.

The CEO has also advised the States/UTs and Regional Offices to lift about 5 lakh samples by March 2024.

FSSAI issues a press release prohibiting the use of calcium carbide as a ripening agent for artificial ripening of fruits.

Vide a [press release dated 10 March 2023](#), the FSSAI has issued a warning to FBOs against artificial ripening of fruits using Calcium Carbide and stated that as per sub-regulation 2.3.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011, the use of calcium carbide also known as 'masala' as a ripening agent for artificial ripening of the fruits is prohibited.

FSSAI issues a notification to include a new laboratory within its list of accredited laboratories.

Vide a [notification dated 23 March 2023](#), the FSSAI has included "N.D. International" in the list of accredited laboratories for carrying out analysis of food samples taken under Section 47 of the FSS Act for the State of West Bengal.

FSSAI issues a notification to omit the names of food analysts.

Vide a [notification dated 23 March 2023](#), the FSSAI has omitted the names of Mr Ashok Kumar Patel, National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad; Mr Sasikanth Sarangam, Food Testing Laboratory, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Kakinada and Mr R. Shanmuganathan, M/s. Food Quality Monitoring Laboratory, Pathanamthitta, Kerala from the list of recognized food analysts.

FSSAI notifies the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Transaction of Business at its meetings) Amendment Regulations, 2023.

Vide a notification dated 23 March 2023, the FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Transaction of Business at its meetings) Amendment Regulations, 2023.

FSSAI notifies Authorized Officer at additional food import entry points at ICD- Adani Kila Raipur-Ludhiana.

FSSAI vide a notification dated 28 March 2023 has notified Authorized Officer (Superintendent/Appraiser/Inspector/Examiner) at additional food import entry points at ICD- Adani Kila Raipur-Ludhiana until further orders

FSSAI issues an updated list of National Reference Laboratories.

Vide an order dated 29 March 2023, the FSSAI has issued an updated list of National Reference Laboratories along with the updated validity of such laboratories.

FSSAI makes changes in the committee for scrutinization of RAFT for kits/equipment/methods.

FSSAI issued an Order dated 29 March 2023 making changes in the committee for scrutinization of RAFT for kits/equipment/methods.

FSSAI notifies provisions for omission of the term "curd" from the standards of fermented milk products.

FSSAI vide a press release dated 30 March 2023 has omitted the term "curd" from the standards of fermented milk products as the nomenclature was restricting the use of the word "curd" for non-dairy products.

FBOs can now use the following nomenclature:

"Curd (Dahi)" OR

"Curd (Mosaru)" OR

"Curd (Zaamut daud)" OR

"Curd (Thayir)" OR

"Curd (Perugu)"

April 2023

FSSAI issues a draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Amendment Regulations, 2023 for comment from stakeholders.

The FSSAI vide a [notification dated 29 March 2023](#) has issued a draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Amendment Regulations, 2023 which would amend the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020 and has also invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders.

The draft amendment introduces several changes to the requisite quantity of certain ingredients that must be present in infant formula, milk cereal-based complementary food, processed cereal-based complementary food, and follow-up formula.

Stakeholders had a period of 60 days to provide their objections/suggestions.

FSSAI notifies the appointment of the Central Food Safety Officer.

The FSSAI vide a [notification dated 29 March 2023](#) has notified the appointment of Sh Rohant Kumar Dhaka as Central Food Safety Officer for the States/UTs falling under the eastern region.

FSSAI appoints Designated Officers for Central Licensing.

Vide office orders dated [31 March 2023](#) and 24 April 2023, the FSSAI has appointed [Ms Jaspreet Kaur, Dr Jestu George, Smt Payel Maji and Ms Preeti](#) as the Designated Officers for Central Licensing for the area of various jurisdictions as specified in the aforementioned office orders.

FSSAI issues an order regarding the revocation of suspension of Bali Test House Private Limited, Ludhiana.

Vide an [order dated 31 March 2023](#), the FSSAI, keeping in view the revocation of the suspension of Bali Test House Private Limited, Ludhiana by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), has lifted the suspension of the aforementioned laboratory with immediate effect.

FSSAI issues an order dated 31 March 2023 regarding the suspension of Yontus Life Sciences Private Limited, Guntur.

The FSSAI vide an order dated 31 March 2023, noted that Yontus Life Sciences Private Limited, Guntur has been suspended by NABL with effect from 30 December 2022 as per condition 1 of clause 4.4 of the NABL Document No. 216.

Pursuant to the suspension of the aforementioned laboratory by NABL, the FSSAI has suspended Yontus Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Guntur from carrying out analysis of samples under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

The suspension will last for a duration of 06 (six) months or till NABL revokes the suspension.

FSSAI requests Food Safety Commissioners of all States/UTs, Regional Directors and Central Licensing Authorities to take action against unauthorized use of artificial fruit ripening agents.

The FSSAI vide a letter dated 03 April 2023 has requested Food Safety Commissioners of all States/UTs, Regional Directors and Central Licensing Authorities to take strict action against the unauthorized use of artificial fruit ripening agents, namely calcium carbide (also known as "masala") and ethylene gas.

The FSSAI has also directed the concerned authorities to conduct a special awareness drive amongst the FBOs on the approved and appropriate manner of using ethylene gas as a ripening agent.

Furthermore, the FSSAI has also instructed the authorities to take strict actions against FBOs who are directly exposing fruits to ethylene gas in its liquid or powdered form or illegally using calcium carbide for artificial ripening of fruits.

FSSAI issues directions regarding re-operationalization of the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose and Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2022.

Vide a notification dated 11 April 2023, the FSSAI, in exercise of the powers vested under Sections 18(2)(d) and 16(5) of the FSS Act, has directed the re-operationalization of the Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose and Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2022 with effect from 1 April 2023.

FSSAI issues directions regarding re-operationalization of the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food

Additives) Amendment Regulations with respect to the standards of fortified rice kernel.

Vide a notification dated 11 April 2023, the FSSAI, in exercise of the powers vested under Sections 18(2)(d) and 16(5) of the FSS Act, has directed the re-operationalization of the provisions relating to fortified rice kernel (**FRK**), vitamin and mineral premix for FRK and rice flour used for producing FRK, as is specified in the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, with effect from 23 December 2022.

However, the provisions relating to yeast and mould count and aerobic plate count parameter of "rice flour for preparation of FRK" have been withdrawn immediately from the date of issue of the notification i.e., 11 April 2023.

FSSAI grants an extension of permission to use old pre-printed packaging materials to tea manufacturing FBOs/ estates.

The FSSAI vide an order dated 13 April 2023 has extended the time limit for tea manufacturing FBOs / estates to use non-retail bulk tea packages in cases of 2nd permission from existing 3 months to 6 months.

In case the tea manufacturing FBOs / estates have already received approval letters allowing them to use pre-printed packaging material for 3 months, that period may now be extended to 6 months from the date of issuance of the approval letter.

FSSAI issues clarification on the format of test reports i.e., "Report of the Food Analyst" and "Certificate of Analysis by the Referral Food Laboratory"

The FSSAI has issued an advisory dated 13 April 2023 to relevant stakeholders, clarifying that they must follow the test report formats provided under the Food Safety and Standards (First Amendment) Rules, 2022 – specifically, Form VII A and Form XI – when issuing test reports for sample analysis (primary and appeal samples) going forward.

To reflect this change, the Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and Sampling Analysis) Regulations, 2011 have also been revised to omit the specified formats of test reports – namely, Form A "Certificate of Analysis by the Referral Food Laboratory" and Form B "Report of the Food Analyst".

FSSAI notifies the appointment of Authorized Officer for the purpose of food import clearance at certain entry points.

Vide an office order dated 20 April 2023, the FSSAI has notified the appointment of Sh Bharat Pachiciya as the Authorized Officer for the purpose of food import clearance at specific entry points in the Delhi National Capital Region.

FSSAI issues an Office Order to implement certain changes/modifications in the Regulatory Compliance Division.

The FSSAI vide an office order dated 21 April 2023 has implemented certain modifications in the Regulatory Compliance Division whereby Ms Sreela Bandyopadhyay has been appointed as the Central Public Information Officer, while Shri Pawan Kumar has been appointed as the First Appellate Authority.

FSSAI issues directions regarding re-operationalization of the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2022 with respect to the standards of crude corn (maize) oil.

Vide a notification dated 24 April 2023, the FSSAI, in exercise of the powers vested under Sections 18(2)(d) and 16(5) of the FSS Act, has directed the re-operationalization of the provisions relating to the standards of crude corn (maize) oil, as is specified in the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2022, with effect from 20 December 2022.

FSSAI operationalizes the draft Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulation, 2020 with respect to the maximum residue limit of pesticides used in tea.

Vide a notification dated 27 April 2023, the FSSAI, in exercise of the powers vested under Sections 18(2)(d) and 16(5) of the FSS Act, has directed the operationalization of the draft Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2020, which relates to the revised maximum residue limit of certain pesticides that are commonly used for crop protection in tea plantations.

The above notification has come into effect immediately and pertains to mainly five pesticides, specifically emamectin benzoate, fenpyroximate, hexaconazole, propiconazole, quinalphos.

FSSAI issues a draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Amendment Regulations, 2023 for comments from stakeholders.

The FSSAI vide a notification dated 27 April 2023 has issued a draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Amendment Regulations, 2023 which would amend the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 and has also invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders.

The proposed draft seeks to amend clause 2.1 of the aforementioned regulations, which relates to the prohibition of sale of certain admixtures. The draft specifies that

the prohibition in respect of sale of "a mixture of two or more edible oils as an edible oil" shall not apply to multi source edible oil. The draft also highlights that multi source edible oil shall not be sold in packages weighing more than 15 litres.

In addition, the draft also proposes to omit the requirement of AGMARK certification mark for selling or offering for sale multi source edible vegetable oil and fat spreads. Similarly, the clauses requiring Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark for manufacture, sale or exhibition of packaged drinking water and mineral water are also proposed to be omitted.

Stakeholders have a period of 60 days to provide their objections/suggestions.

*For further information, kindly refer to the notification.

May 2023

FSSAI invites public comments on the Manual of Methods of Analysis of Foods - Honey and Other Beehive Products and the Manual of Methods of Analysis - Microbiological Examination of Food and Water.

The FSSAI, vide [notice dated 3 May 2023](#), invited public comments on the Manual of Methods of Analysis of Foods - Honey and Other beehive products and the Manual of Methods of Analysis - Microbiological Examination of Food and Water, as approved by the Scientific Panel on Methods of Sampling and Analysis.

Stakeholders are invited to submit their comments/views/suggestions, furnished with supporting scientific evidence, within a period of 30 days of the publication of the notice.

Scientific Committee of FSSAI meets for the first time on 2 May 2023.

Vide [press release dated 3 May 2023](#), FSSAI stated that the Scientific Committee of FSSAI met for the first time since its reconstitution on 2 May 2023.

The Scientific Committee comprises six independent experts and chairpersons of the 21 Scientific Panels, which are constituted by the Food Authority under Section 13 of the FSS Act. The Scientific Committee is the apex scientific body of FSSAI which provides scientific opinion/inputs to the food authority as and when required.

Some of the new areas and challenges FSSAI seeks to work on are nutraceuticals, ultra-processed food, and rapid kits/methods for detecting food-borne pathogen.

FSSAI issues a draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Amendment Regulations, 2023 for comments from stakeholders.

The FSSAI vide [notification dated 11 May 2023](#) has issued a draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Amendment Regulations, 2023 which would amend the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018 and has also invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders.

The draft amendment brings ready-to-drink/ low alcoholic beverages, honey wine (mead), and nitro craft beer under the purview of the 2018 regulations on alcoholic beverages. It also lists Indian Liquors (Distilled Liquor), Indian Liquor (Undistilled Liquor), and Indian Liquor (Low Alcoholic Beverage) along with their respective raw materials and starters, and their compliance category under the regulations of 2018.

Stakeholders have a period of 60 days to provide their objections/suggestions.

*For further information, kindly refer to the notification.

FSSAI denies approval of all non-specified food and food ingredients having vitamins and/or minerals above one RDA (Recommended Dietary Allowance) level.

The FSSAI vide [notice dated 12 May 2023](#) in reference to the Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017, disallowed all approval applications of non-specified food and food ingredients where the products/ingredients are formulated with vitamins and/or minerals above one RDA (Recommended Dietary Allowance) level.

The FSSAI decision is based on the recommendations of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Expert Committee on non-specified food and food ingredients, who have recommended that products/ingredients formulated with vitamins and/or minerals above one RDA level not be considered for approval under the Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017.

FSSAI issued directions clarifying the enforcement of the FSS Act and its rules/regulations with respect to central licenses held by FBOs.

FSSAI issued a direction vide [letter dated 12 May 2023](#), to clarify the enforcement of the FSS Act and rules/regulations made thereunder, with respect to Central Licenses held by FBO.

The purpose of the clarification is to ensure administrative efficiency and effective enforcement without any jurisdictional issues.

It has been clarified, *inter alia*, that all regular inspections done against any complaints made against centrally licensed FBOs shall be carried out by the Central Food Safety Officers (FSO). State FSOs/Designated Officers shall provide necessary assistance upon request. State Food Authorities are also empowered to take necessary action against any centrally licensed FBO upon receiving information regarding any food safety incident/emergency.

With respect to adjudication proceedings, cases are to be filed before the Adjudicating Officer notified by the State/Union Territory and appeals shall go to the Food Safety Appellate Tribunal established by the State/Union Territory. The adjudication process shall be the same for Central FSOs and will be applicable to other Central Government Officials acting as Central FSOs/Central Designated Officers.

The direction shall be effective from 12 May 2023 and will not affect any prior actions taken.

FSSAI defers enforcement of warning statement requirements of 'pan masala' for a period of 3 months.

Vide [letter dated 22 May 2023](#), the FSSAI, in exercise of the powers vested under Section 16(5) of the FSS Act, has deferred the enforcement of the warning statement requirement for 'pan masalas' under the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and

Display) Regulations, 2022, for a period of 3 months. The decision was made in consideration of sustainable practices for FBOs and representation received by associations.

The Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2022 provides under Schedule-II (1)(3), that 'pan masalas' must have a warning statement covering 50% of front-of-pack of the label. The regulations have been in effect from 1 May 2023.

Note: It is only the enforcement of the warning statement requirement for 'pan masalas' which has been deferred for 3 months.

FSSAI issued direction to re-operationalize the limits of Selenium, Manganese, Iron, and Biotin in the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Amendment Regulations, 2022.

Vide [letter dated 22 May 2023](#), the FSSAI, in exercise of the powers vested under Sections 18(2)(d) and 16(5) of the FSS Act, has re-operationalized the limits of Selenium, Manganese, Iron, and Biotin as specified in the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Amendment Regulations, 2022.

FSSAI took the decision considering representations received from industry associations, pending the finalization of the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Amendment Regulations, 2022.

FSSAI to conduct nationwide surveillance on milk and milk products

FSSAI vide a [press release dated 25 May 2023](#) stated that it will conduct nationwide surveillance on milk and milk products in its ongoing effort to curb adulteration of such products.

While it has been clarified that the surveillance will be done by collecting samples from both the organised & unorganised sectors in all the districts of the States/Union Territories, no tentative timeline for the surveillance has been provided.

This surveillance on milk and milk products will be the 6th conducted by the FSSAI after five surveillances on such products with differing scales and metrics, since 2011.

June 2023

FSSAI issues protocols for testing fortificants.

Vide a [notice dated 30 May 2023](#) (uploaded on 1 June 2023), the FSSAI has notified fresh protocols for testing for fortificants in fortified rice.

The updated protocols involve (i) homogenization of sample; (ii) Intermediate checks of CRM/MSDS; (iii) retention of remnant sample; (iv) re-testing in case of complaints.

FSSAI forms a National Training Centre in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh and launches an e-learning app - Food Safety and Certification (FoSTaC).

Vide a [press release dated 1 June 2023](#), the FSSAI has inaugurated a National Training Centre that is said to be instrumental in providing structured instruction, practice and learning experiences to meet the desired knowledge on food safety and standards, as mandated by the FSS Act. The learning app launched by FSSAI contains learning and training modules pertaining to food safety guidelines for street vendors.

FSSAI withdraws notice for recognition of accreditation bodies.

Vide [notification dated 8 June 2023](#), FSSAI citing administrative reasons withdraws its earlier notice dated 28 December 2022 pertaining to approval of accreditation bodies by FSSAI to invited accredited food laboratories.

FSSAI extends the last date for filing annual returns.

The FSSAI vide [notification dated 9 June 2023](#) extended the last date for filing annual returns for FY 2022-23, and reiterated the notified order of 18 December 2020 stating that only online annual returns submitted through FoSCoS will be accepted.

FSSAI releases the 5th State Food Safety Index (SFSI) and the RAFT portal.

Vide [press release dated 7 June 2023](#), FSSAI released an index that evaluates the performance of states and territories across six different aspects of food safety. The RAFT portal functions to streamline the operations of the RAFT scheme (2019) to ensure transparency and accountability.

FSSAI issues notification of Authorized Officer as per FSS Act and FSS (Imports) Regulations, 2017.

Vide [notifications dated 12 June 2023](#) and 14 June 2023, FSSAI as per Section 47(5) of FSS Act and Regulation 13(1) of FSS (Imports) Regulations, 2017, issued notification of authorized officers for the purpose of imported food clearance at food import entry points mentioned therein.

FSSAI to upscale training activities and capacity building.

FSSAI vide a [press release dated 13 June 2023](#) announced a three-week induction training programme (NIPUN) followed by on-the-job exposure to sensitize recruits to the standards and mandates of the food regulating unit. The inaugurated training centre is ensuring an enhancement to staff training and capacity building for food safety officials, designated officers and staff members.

FSSAI instructs Food Safety Officers under respective jurisdictions to ensure effective compliance of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

FSSAI vide [notice dated 16 June 2023](#), instructed Food Safety officers and designated officers under respective jurisdictions to ensure effective compliance with Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 prohibiting single-use plastics and use of packing films around sweet boxes.

FSSAI directs all notified laboratories for organic testing.

Vide [order dated 16 June 2023](#), the FSSAI has taken steps to strengthen cooperative societies ordered food testing laboratories to optimize their facilities and procedures to increase efficiency and accuracy for organic testing. The notified laboratories were directed to enhance their infrastructure for testing organic products. They were also urged to apply to the APEDA for recognition of their laboratory, without which they would be intelligible for per-export testing of organic products.


FSSAI extends timeline for FSSAI-NABL Integrated Assessment.

Vide [notice dated 28 June 2023](#), the FSSAI issued a conditional order to the notified laboratories stating that only after the laboratory obtains accreditation under FSSAI-NABL Integrated Assessment will the FSSAI accept fresh programs for FSSAI recognition and notification. It further notified, under Section 43(1) and Section 43(2) of FSS Act, that all laboratories that have not obtained FSSAI-NABL Integrated assessment ought to do so before 31 March 2024 or the expiry of their NABL accreditation validity period, whichever is earlier.



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