

F. No. QA-12015/22/2021-QA-FSSAI (E. No. 4039)
भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं मानक प्राधिकरण
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं मानक अधिनियम, 2006 के तहत स्थापित वैधानिक प्राधिकरण)
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)
(गुणवत्ता आश्वासन प्रभाग)
(Quality Assurance Division)
एफडीए भवन, कोटला रोड, नई दिल्ली-110002
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110002

दिनांक, १२ जुलाई, 2022
Dated, the 12th July, 2022

आदेश / Order

Subject: Compliance with respect to time limit for analysis of samples by FSSAI notified laboratories – reg.

It has come to the notice of Food Authority that several FSSAI notified laboratories are not adhering to the time limit specified for testing of regulatory samples as per FSS Act, 2006 and Rules thereon.

2. In this connection, FSSAI notified laboratories are hereby advised to strictly comply with the timelines especially for regulatory samples as specified below:

(i) Domestic Regulatory samples: The Food Analyst shall issue the signed report **within 14 days** of the receipt of the article of food for analysis as per the format specified under FSS (Laboratory and Sampling Analysis) Regulation, 2011. Provided that, in case the sample cannot be analyzed within 14 days of its receipt, the Food Analyst shall inform the Designated Officer and the Commissioner of Food Safety giving reasons and specifying the time to be taken for analysis.

Further, in case of appeal, Referral laboratory shall issue the report signed by the Director **within 14 working days** of receipt of sample as per the format specified under FSS (Laboratory and Sampling Analysis) Regulation, 2011. Provided that, in case the sample cannot be analysed within 14 working days of its receipt, the Referral laboratory shall inform the Designated Officer and the Commissioner of Food Safety giving reasons and specifying the time to be taken for analysis.

(ii) Import: Notified laboratory or Referral laboratory, as the case may be, shall provide the laboratory analysis report as per the format specified under FSS (Import) Regulations, 2017 **within five days** from the date of receipt of the sample. If the sample cannot be tested by the laboratory within the specified time, it shall state the reasons for the same in writing to the Authorised Officer.

3. Further, it is also clarified that, when a notified laboratory perform dual roles (i.e both as Primary and Referral laboratory), such laboratory can either function as a Primary laboratory or a Referral laboratory for a single sample. For example, if a laboratory has tested a sample as a Primary laboratory then the appeal against the test results of that particular sample will not be entertained by the same laboratory, irrespective of the fact that the same laboratory is playing the role of a Referral laboratory as well. The same sample will invariably be sent to another Referral laboratory as per the testing capability and scope of that Referral laboratory.

4. All the FSSAI notified laboratories are hereby advised to strictly comply with the above said matters. Stringent action may be taken against the defaulters.

यह आदेश सक्षम प्राधिकारी के अनुमोदन से जारी किया जाता है।

This has the approval of Competent Authority.

(स्वीटी बेहेरा)
(Sweety Behera)
निर्देशक (गुणवत्ता आश्वासन)
Director (Quality Assurance)

To (through email):

1. All FSSAI notified laboratories.

Copy to (through email):

1. Commissioners of Food Safety (All States and UTs);
2. All regional offices of FSSAI;
3. All Authorized Officers of FSSAI.

Copy for information to (through email):

1. PPS to Chairperson, FSSAI (HQ), New Delhi;
2. PS to CEO, FSSAI (HQ), New Delhi;
3. CEO, NABL, Gurugram;
4. Executive Director (RCD), FSSAI (HQ), New Delhi;
5. Advisor (S&S), FSSAI (HQ), New Delhi;
6. Director (Imports), FSSAI (HQ), New Delhi;
7. CITO, FSSAI (HQ), New Delhi - for uploading in the FSSAI website;
8. Guard File.