

FSSAI notifies amended norms on micro stds for meat, milk, fruits, chicken

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The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2020, relating to microbiological standards for meat, milk and fruits & vegetables and the requirement for salmonella in poultry (chicken) meat, in the gazette of India.

The food products are now required to comply with the provisions of the microbiological standards through entire shelf life.

According to the amended regulations, under Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, Appendix B, the Food Safety Criteria, defined in Table 2B relating to Microbiological Standards for Milk and Milk Products, Table 4B relating to Microbiological Standards for Fruits and Vegetables and their Products and Table 5B relating to Microbiological Standards for Meat and Meat Products, define the acceptability of a batch or lot and shall be met in respect of the product at the end of the manufacturing process and the products in the market during their shelf- life.

And the FBOs need to comply with them.

Further, for sampling plans and guidelines for all three categories in Tables 2B, 4B and 5B, the regulations have made a provision that a set of five samples shall be tested from three different accredited laboratories and the final decision shall be drawn based on three test results and there will be no provision for retesting or re-sampling for microbiological testing.

Also, test methods prescribed in FSSAI Manual of Methods of Analysis of Foods (Microbiological Testing) may also be referred along with the IS/ISO methods specified for Process Hygiene Criteria and Food Safety Criteria, according to the notification.

Meanwhile, in Table 5B relating to “Microbiological Standards for Meat and Meat Products, the regulations now have made provisions for complying with the microbiological standard with respect to salmonella, which earlier was not applicable.

Now, for poultry meat, the requirement shall be applicable for Salmonella enterica serovars, Typhi, Typhimurium and Enteritidis, says the notification.