



## **FSSAI launches cloud-based compliance platform Food Safety Compliance System**

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**Our Bureau, New Delhi**

FSSAI is launching its cloud-based, upgraded new food safety compliance online platform called Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS).

It will replace the existing FLRS. FoSCoS is conceptualised to provide one point stop for all engagement of an FBO with the department for any regulatory compliance transaction.

Since 2011, the FSSAI's online licensing platform FLRS (Food Licensing and Registration System) has been the soul of the licensing ecosystem with 100 per cent India (all state and UTs) coverage, 70 lakh licences/ registrations issued till date, over 35 lakh licensees/ registrants actively transacting on it.

FoSCoS has been integrated with FoSCoRIS mobile app and will soon integrate with present IT platforms of FSSAI such as INFOLNet, FoSTaC, FICS and FPVIS. Sample management, improvement notices, adjudications, audit management system and so on activities/ modules will be enabled in phased manner in future.

Technologies such as GPS location tagging, picture capture and RFID will be utilised in future to ensure transparent and accountable extension field services such inspections and sampling. In future it will be integrated with other platforms of Government of India such as GST, PAN and MCA to ensure a 360 degree profiling and validation of businesses.

A single regulatory platform will enable pan-India integrated response system to any food fraud and ensure an advanced risk-based, data-driven regulatory approach. For the start, FoSCoS will be offering licensing, registration, inspection and annual return modules.

FoSCoS essentially has flows similar to FLRS, so that users have convenience in migrating to FoSCoS. The paradigm change is the shift of methodology of licensing for manufacturers which now shall be based on standardised product list.

This will help in quicker grant of licences and eliminate any errors. The new approach is only for manufacturers of standardised food products. For manufacturers, in case of non-specified food, supplements/nutraceuticals, proprietary food and substances added to food - the approach continues to be as in FLRS.

All other kind of businesses such as catering, transport and storage, the licensing/ registration shall be based on broad category approach, as earlier.

Along with FoSCoS, the module for filing online annual return shall also be available. The return for financial year 2019-2020 may also be filed online.

Delayed returns due to postal delays, need to preserve dispatch/receipt proofs and disputes regarding submission of returns resulting in harassment of food business operators will be eliminated.

Mandatory documents have been rationalised and many paper-based declarations have been replaced

with tick based declaration. The central theme is to enhance the ease of doing business for the food business operators and enhances user experience for users.

The FoSCoS shall be launched in phases. For the initial launch of FoSCoS with effect from June 1, 2020, states/UTs of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa, Delhi, Odisha, Manipur, Chandigarh, Puducherry and Ladakh have been selected.

the FoSCoS is launched in a state/UT, all licences/ registrations pertaining to the state will be available on FoSCoS and the FLRS data shall be disabled for taking any action.

However, for initial days, users can access their issued licences/registrations or applications under processing on FLRS for viewing purpose only. Users will not be required to immediately do anything upon migration to FoSCoS apart from verifying the correctness of details in issued licences/registrations and applications under processing.

However, all manufacturers holding valid FSSAI licence shall be needed to modify their licence to choose from the available list of standardised products before December 31, 2020. Steps to be taken upon migration from FLRS to FoSCoS, FAQs and other user-oriented material have been made available on the homepage of FLRS and FoSCoS both.

States/UTs have been given directions for capacity building among the officers and Food Business Operators, to ensure smooth transition from FLRS to FoSCoS. Over the past three months, FSSAI has conducted several trainings/workshops on the key features of the system.

Further, a training version of FoSCoS has been made available so that users of system get acquainted with the upcoming system. The Guidance Document, PPT, Video Tutorials and User Manuals have been made available under User Manual Section on the homepage of the system.

Directions have been issued to all states/UTs to establish a “Licensing Help Desk” at State HQ level for addressing queries of users. An officer(s) needs to handle this desk whose telephone number and email needs to be disseminated to stakeholders in the state.