



Food e-tailers must hold sub-office licences, keep records, says FSSAI

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The Food Safety Standards Authority of India has clarified that e-commerce FBOs (food business operators) need to acquire licence for a city or sub-office only if any food business activity will be carried out there, and they need to maintain records of such offices as well.

The country's apex food regulator issued an order in this regard, stating that offices where no food business activities were happening did not require FSSAI licences.

“The state/city-wise sub-offices of e-commerce FBOs, where no food business activities are being carried out as defined under Clause 3 (n) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, do not require an FSSAI licence,” it added.

The order stated, “All e-commerce FBOs should maintain the records of their state-/city-wise sub-office, and a copy of the FSSAI licence issued to them shall be displayed at a prominent place in the premises of the said sub-office.”

It is pertinent to mention here that the e-commerce FBOs are required to take Central licences under Sub-regulation 2.2.1 of the Food Safety Standards (Licencing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2018, regulations governing such FBOs, which were made operational by FSSAI first in September 2017 and later re-operationalised in February 2019.

The regulator has, in a statement, said that it received representations from various stakeholders seeking clarification on the subject about whether FSSAI licences were required at state/city-wise sub-offices of the e-commerce FBOs.