

## Food testing labs, import clearance of food items are essential services: FSSAI

31 Mar 2020 [Suneera Tandon](#)

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- Scrutiny of applications, visual inspection, and sampling for import clearance will continue
  - NEW DELHI: India's top food regulator Food Safety & Standards Authority (FSSAI) on Tuesday enumerated import clearance of food items and functioning of notified food testing laboratories as essential services during the nationwide lockdown.
  - In a clarification, FSSAI said all personnel who are in charge of these essential services are required to be available in office on all working days (Monday to Friday between 9:30 am to 6:00 pm) to facilitate trade as well as ensure smooth operation of related services across the country.
  - FSSAI that has offices in six locations in India -- Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Cochin and Tuticorin -- said all these offices are fully operational.
  - Services such as scrutiny of applications, visual inspection, and sampling for import clearance will continue as FSSAI seeks to ensure expeditious processing of applications.
  - It further said that FSSAI's regional offices will continue to assist food importers as well as ensure regular supervision and testing of food items and will take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of food products.