

FSSAI to accept ISO 17025 lab certificate for imported proprietary foods

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The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued an order stating that it will accept certificate of analysis for imported proprietary food only issued by an ISO 17025-accredited lab. It added that the certificate should not be more than three months old.

The country's apex food regulator, in its order, said, "A certificate of analysis for testing of imported proprietary food will be accepted by the authorised officer only if it is issued by an ISO 17025-accredited lab in the exporting country with a valid scope for those parameters and product matrix."

It added that FSSAI had decided that the certificate of analysis accompanying the consignment shall not be more than three months from the date of dispatch from the exporting country.

"The order shall come into effect from January 1, 2020," said Amit Sharma, director, imports, FSSAI.

In August too, FSSAI issued a similar order stating that as per the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations 2017, imported proprietary foods, as defined under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, ninth amendment regulation, 2016 shall be tested for quality parameters as per THE certificate of analysis from the exporting country submitted by the importer and safety parameters as per the Food Safety and Standards Regulations on contaminants, toxins and residues.

According to the definition, proprietary food is an article of food that has not been standardised under the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, but does not include novel foods, foods for special dietary uses, foods for special medical purposes, functional foods, nutraceuticals, health supplements and such other food articles, which the Central Government may notify on this behalf.