

FSSAI seeks stakeholders' responses to fix ports as food entry points

Monday, 24 June, 2019

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FSSAI has sought responses from the stakeholders on its decisions to fix some ports as food entry points. About 132 such entry points across India have been identified by the apex food regulator. These include seaports, airports, land custom stations, inland container depots and special economic zones.

As reported earlier by fnbnews.com, FSSAI was actively considering to fix the numbers of the entry points for food imports so that the food safety of the imported food items can be ensured.

The FSSAI has, in this regard, issued a notice saying that in order to put in place a robust food regulatory framework at the points of entry and to prevent the entry of sub-standard or unsafe food into the country, it is proposed to notify 132 points of entry covering seaports, airports, inland contain depots, land custom stations and special economic zones as food import entry points.

“The list has been compiled based on food import data of past years received from DGCI&S and CBIC. All efforts have been made to cover the various regions of the country from where the major food imports are currently taking place,” said the notice.

It added that to facilitate ease of doing business while ensuring the mandate of safe food imports in India, comments and suggestions are invited from all the stakeholders before finalising the food import entry points. Stakeholders can send across their suggestions to director imports, FSSAI.

It is pertinent to mention here that presently, FSSAI has notified authorised officers at 416 locations, wherein 20 locations manned by FSSAI officials, and at 396 locations, Custom officials have been given charge to regulate the import of food items. FSSAI operates through five regional offices in the country in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai and Guwahati.