

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS & MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 2019

1. Ongoing efforts in focus areas:

a) Draft notifications issued:

- The Draft “Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulation, 2019 amend regulations relating to inclusion on sorbitan monostearate for use in various food categories including yeast and like products and microbiological requirements for spices and herbs has been notified.
- The draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulation, 2019, specifying new standards for low lactose/lactose free milk, dairy permeate powder and definition of mozzarella cheese has been notified.
- The draft regulation for Food for Infant Nutrition namely Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2019 has been notified on 1st May, 2019. This revised and comprehensive regulation would supersede the provisions related to Food for Infant for Nutrition in sub-regulation 2.1.9 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. This regulation includes the standards for infant formula for special medically purposes specially food for infants with inborn error metabolism. In addition the standards for premature infant milk substitutes, lactose free, lactose & sucrose free infant milk substitute etc.

b) **Amendment in Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, toxins and Residues) Regulations** :The order 12.10.2018 related to *Testing of herbicide “Glyphosate in pulses as per Codex MRL limits”* are superseded by order dated 6.5.2019 related to Third Amendment of Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, toxins and Residues), 2018 stating that *the tolerance limit of 0.01 mg/kg shall apply in case of pesticides for which MRL have not been fixed.*

c) **FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative**: total of **(581)** training programs have been conducted in collaboration with training partners during May 2019.

d) Two Interactive Radio Counseling Session have been conducted in collaboration with IGNOU through Gyan Vani on “FoSTaC Programme for Street Food Vendors (04.05.2019) and “Street Food Safety (18.05.2019)” with a view to spread Food Safety awareness among the masses.

2. Strengthening of testing infrastructure and support systems:

i. Food Safety on Wheels:

One additional Food Safety on Wheels (FSW) has been sanctioned to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This has raised the total number of sanctioned FSWs from 46 to 47.

ii. Capacity Building:

- Two awareness programs on ISO/IEC-17025:2017 for food analysts/ technical personnel working in State Food Testing Laboratories were conducted at Indian Rubber Manufacturer’s Research Association (IRMRA) Mumbai and

Administrative Training Institute (ATI) Kolkata on 7th May, 2019 and 22nd May, 2019 respectively.

- Organized 2nd Short Term Mission training program on Microbial Risk Assessment on Fish and Fish Products at ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi from 27.05.2019 to 31.05.2019.

- b) **Notification of Food Testing Laboratories:** 4 new food testing laboratories have been notified by FSSAI vide S.O. 1722 (E) dated 8th May, 2019. This has raised the total number of FSSAI notified laboratories from 175 to 179.
- c) **Towards ease of doing business-** FSSAI has become a part of integrated assessment of the laboratories along with other Regulators through NABL for recognition of food laboratories.

3. International initiatives:

- a) 13th Session of Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 29th April – 03rd May 2019:
- Establishing Maximum levels (MLs) for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plans.
 - Revision of ML of lead in wine and establishing an ML for lead in fortified or liqueur wines.
 - India will co-chair the EWG on the establishment of maximum levels for total aflatoxins in cereals (wheat, maize, sorghum and rice), flour and cereal-based foods for infants and young children).
- (b) 45th Session of Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL45), Ottawa, Canada from 13th to 17th May 2019.
- India's proposal on the "Proposed Draft Guidance on Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of foods" has been forwarded for adoption at Step 5 to the upcoming session of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC42, 2019). India chaired the Physical working group on this document, held a day before the plenary session of CCFL45.
 - The Committee agreed to start new work on
 - i. Internet sales/e-commerce (prepared by UK along with Chile, Ghana, India and Japan)
 - ii. Allergen Labelling