

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF JULY, 2020

ONGOING EFFORTS IN FOCUS AREAS:

Quality Assurance:

1) Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country:

- (i) Capacity Building:** Due to nation-wide lockdown Total 30 online training programs have been organized in which all the laboratory personnel of State/UTs and FSSAI Notified laboratories, Food Business Operators, Consumers, etc., were allowed to participate. Total 52,403 participants attended these online training programs. Further, FSSAI has also started live training session (practical session) for all the laboratory personnel of State/UTs, FSSAI Notified laboratories and other laboratories. Three live training sessions have been conducted during the month of July, 2020 with 438 participants.
- (ii) Notification of Food Testing Laboratories:** One food testing laboratory has been approved by FSSAI. This has raised the total number of FSSAI notified food testing laboratories from 187 to 188.

Imports:

FSSAI issued an order dated 07.07.2020 regarding requirement of AGMARK Certification prior to import of Blended Edible Vegetable Oils (BEVO) wherein it has been clarified that Import of BEVO without AGMARK certification is not allowed in India and further the BEVO shall also comply with the rules and regulations made under FSS Act, 2006.

Social and Behavioral Change:

1. Public Awareness: All significant steps being taken by FSSAI facilitating various stakeholders amid COVID-19 including public awareness material on eating right during COVID, measures on keeping raw/prepared food safe, storage of other food items etc. both in Hindi and English languages are being disseminated through various social media platforms on regular basis. A total of 23 creative (12 in English and 11 in Hindi) have been posted on the relevant sites in the month of July 2020.
2. Eat Right Challenge: An Eat Right Challenge has been launched in the month of July 2020, envisioned as a competition among districts and cities to recognize their

efforts in adopting and scaling up various initiatives under Eat Right India Movement. Further, it is meant to motivate states to improve performance and encourage others to join. It will help in strengthening robust food ecosystem; in self-compliance of food businesses & capacity building; in transforming the food environment with safe, healthy and sustainable diet to all along with informed choices. FSSAI will provide seed funding of INR 5 lakhs to the first 150 cities/districts to register. Till date, 198 registrations are received on the portal from. More details are available at <https://fssai.gov.in/EatRightChallenge/aboutChallenge#Introduction>.

Regulatory Compliance:

1. Letter dated 07/07/2020 has been issued related to Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for reactivation of rejected applications and Change in User Profile including new login credentials, email ID and Mobile number etc. Details of letter is available at link https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/07/5f0431c7922e6Letter_SOP_Reactivation_Rejected_Applications_07_07_2020.pdf
2. Letter dated 16/07/2020 has been issued regarding Surveillance and enforcement to prohibit sell of Health Supplement and nutraceutical products containing PABA (Para Amino Benzoic Acid) a banned ingredient which are being sold in the market as well as on e-commerce platforms. Details of letter is available at link https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/07/5f1035178000aLetter_Surveillance_Enforcement_Sell_HealthSuppliments_16_07_2020.pdf
3. Letter dated 24/07/2020 regarding an extension to the date of enforcement for display of "Date of Manufacturing" and "Best before Date" in case of non-packaged/loose sweets in the container/tray at the outlets for sale from 01st Aug 2020 to 01st October 2020. More details are available at: https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/07/5f1ab35b4dfe4Order_Date_Sweets_24_07_2020.pdf

Training and Capacity Building:

1. Under FoSTaC, 92 trainings have been conducted for Food Safety Supervisors using digital platforms like gototraining, webex, zoom, jiomeetpro etc. in which 3,867 people are trained and assessed online.
2. Trainees are being trained on COVID- 19 Preventive guidelines along with the FoSTaC courses.
3. 2 hours COVID-19 Training is also being conducted by the Training Partners using online platforms for training/meeting. In July, 176 trainings have been conducted and 13,281 people are trained on COVID.

Codex:

In an historic moment for the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) conducted its 79th meeting online (13/07/2020 - 20/07/2020) due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Through four online sessions, the committee examined standards for adoption and proposals for new work from those committees that were able to meet before travel became impossible in March this year and all subsequent Codex meetings were cancelled. India has participated in the meeting as Regional Coordinator for Asia.

The CCEXEC has recommended standards for Mango Chutney, ware potatoes and Chilli Sauce for their final adoption by Commission. The new work for development of these Codex standards was originally proposed and led by India.

Regulations:

Details of notifications published are as under:

Final Notifications:

1. Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Second Amendment Regulations, 2020 (notified on 09.07.2020)
2. Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Third Amendment Regulations, 2020 (notified on 09.07.2020)
3. Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2020 (notified on 09.07.2020)
4. Food safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on sales) First Amendment regulations related to sale of beverages containing artificial sweeteners through vending machines (notified on 21.07.2020)
5. Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and sample Analysis) First Amendment Regulations, 2020 w.r.t. Rapid Analytical Food Testing Kit, Equipment or Method (notified on 21.07.2020)
6. Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 2020 (notified on 23.07.2020)

Draft Notifications seeking stakeholders' comments:

1. Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2020 w.r.t. new standards of Dairy Analogue and revision of standards of Ghee and other Milk Fat Products (notified on 21.07.2020)
2. Draft Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on sales) Amendment Regulations, 2020 related to incidental occurring of Khesari dal in grams/pulses (notified on 23.07.2020)
3. Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2020 relating to standards of Shea Butter and Borneo Tallow/Illipe butter (notified on 27.07.2020)