

# **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**

## **Monthly Achievements for the month of October , 2022**

### **I. REGULATIONS ISSUED :**

#### **A. Final Notifications**

1. Gazette Notification of Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Amendment Regulations, 2022 relating to labeling of Pan Masala and various types of bread.[Notified on 11-10-2022]
2. Gazette Notification of Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-specified Food and food Ingredients) First Amendment Regulations, 2022 relating to revision in procedure for approval of non-specified food.[Notified on 11-10-2022]
3. Gazette Notification on Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2021 related to inclusion of enzymes derived from genetically modified source under processing aids [Notified on 27-10-2022]

#### **B. Draft Notifications issued for inviting public comments (uploaded on website of FSSAI-www.fssai.gov.in)**

1. Draft to further amend the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Recruitment and Appointment) Regulations, 2018, [Notified on 13-10 -2022]

### **II. ORDERS/ADVISORIES/CLARIFICATIONS -**

1. A clarification has been issued on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 that for vegan logo endorsement under FSS (Vegan Foods) Regulations, 2022, for same product with multiple variants or for two or more different products, separate application for each variant/different products needs to be submitted . The same will not be considered under single application.
2. It has been decided vide Order dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 that registration of foreign food manufacturing facilities falling under following food categories , who intend to export these products shall be mandatory:
  - (i) Milk and Milk Products;
  - (ii) Meat and Meat Products including Poultry, Fish and their products
  - (iii) Egg Powder

- (iv) Infant Food
- (v) Nutraceuticals.

Based on list provided by the Competent Authority of exporting country, the registration of such facilities will be done by the FSSAI at its portal. The order will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2023.

3. Vide clarificatory order dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, a clarification has been provided in respect of Rule 2.1.3(1) of Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011 relating to educational qualification of Food Safety Officers .

4. To reduce overall food import clearance time and demurrage charges incurred, all Food Importers/FBOs have been advised to avail the facility of advance processing of Bill of Entry in FICS while importing food consignments.

5. Vide order dated 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, comments/suggestions have been sought from all stakeholders on a decision to restrict import of high risk products as specified in the order to be permitted through 61 ports only which are directly manned and managed by FSSAI Office/Officials.

6. To further facilitate trade and ease of doing business , it has been decided vide Direction under Section 16(5) of FSS Act, 2006 dated 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 that FBOs having Authorised Economic Operators (AEOs) certification from Customs, the FBOs shall declare and submit the undertaking/declaration in the specified form to concerned Authorised Officer . The AOs have been directed to carry out visual inspection , draw samples and issue Provisional NOC (P-NOC) without waiting for the analysis report from the laboratory. On receipt of analysis report from lab , AO shall issue the final NOC , if product conforms to FSSAI Standards. This order is valid till further orders.

7. It has been clarified vide clarification dated 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 that consignments of alcoholic beverages imported into India in bulk containers having beverages with higher alcohol content wherein, the product is used as an ingredient for manufacturing of alcoholic beverages , shall be scrutinized against sub-regulation 1.3.9 of FSS (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018 wherein the upper limit of alcohols shall not apply and only safety parameters shall be tested along with other labeling requirements.

8. A direction dated 27<sup>th</sup> October under Section 16(5) of FSS Act, 2006 has been issued that for samples taken from imported consignment referred to referral laboratory on request of Importers, only parameters , results of which in primary lab are found non-conforming to the limit specified under FSS Regulations and applicable safety parameters not tested by primary lab, if any, will be tested by the referral laboratory. The analysis report issued by referral lab shall be final.

9. Considering the comments received from trading partners, the requirement of Health Certificate for specified products as specified under order dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August,

2022 and its subsequent clarification dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 , shall now be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023.

### **III QUALITY ASSURANCE**

#### **1. Notification of Food Testing Laboratories**

FSSAI notifies primary labs under Section 43(1) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 for purposes of conducting regulatory and surveillance testing of samples . During October, 2022, Sneha Test House, Bengaluru has been notified as primary food testing Laboratory under Section 43 (1) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Two labs were , however, denotified during the month. This has brought the total number of primary food testing laboratories to 225.

National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal has been notified as Referral food testing Laboratory under Section 43 (2) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. This has raised the total number of Referral food testing laboratories to 21.

#### **2.Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country including provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs:**

##### **(a) Upgradation of State Food Testing labs under SoFTeL Scheme**

FSSAI introduced a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for “Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country including Provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs” (SOFTeL) in 2016-17 for 3 years (extended upto FY 2019-20) with initial financial outlay of Rs. 481.95 crore. The Scheme *inter alia* envisaged strengthening of 43 State Food Testing Labs - at least one food testing laboratory in each State and two in larger States with high end equipment, basic equipment and setting up of microbiology lab. A grant of Rs. 13.90 crore (approx.) is earmarked for each SFTL.

A grant of Rs. 372.35 crore was released from the original outlay against all the components of the Scheme, including Rs. 313.98 towards upgradation of State Food Testing Labs. The Scheme was reviewed and further extended with approval of the Govt. upto FY 2022-23 with few additional parameters and a revised outlay of Rs. 241.34 crore for the extended period.

Under the component of the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) relating to upgradation of SFTLs, during October, 2022 a total of Rs.359.70 Lakh (excluding Rs. 20 lakh for FSW) has been released to State of Jharkhand under the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for undertaking Renovation Work, purchasing of High End Equipment, Basic Equipment for lab, Setting up of Microbiology lab, Purchase of Consumables, RAFT kits, NABL etc. in order to upgrade their State Food Testing Laboratories. A sum of Rs. 382 lakh has also been released for upgradation of Puducherry lab . This has raised total grant released under the Scheme for upgradation of 41 labs of 30 States/UTs to Rs. 399.19 Crore.

### **(b) Food Safety on Wheels**

FSSAI is providing mobile Food Testing Labs to States/UTs to undertake testing, training and awareness activities in remote areas thus strengthening the food testing ecosystem. A total of 97 fully equipped mobile food testing labs were provided under the SoFTeL Central Sector Scheme. Now FSSAI is providing funds to the States/UTs, other than under Central Sector Scheme, against approved Work Plan through signing of MoU with States/UTs for purchase of Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs), each costing around Rs.42 Lakh. Till end of September, 2022, a total of 324 FSWs were sanctioned. During Total of 11 Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs) @Rs.42 Lakh per FSW were sanctioned to the state of Jharkhand under MoU Work Plan 2022-23 for direct procurement through GeM. 50% of the grants have been released as first instalment to the States/UTs for the same. This has raised the total number of FSWs provided to States/UTs so far to 335.

Apart from this, advance fund to incur the cost of Operational expenses of FSWs has also been sanctioned to State of Jharkhand –Rs.20 Lakh under CSS + Rs.32.5 Lakh under Non-CSS)

### **3. Manual of Methods of analysis:**

Food Authority has approved the Manual of Methods of Analysis of Dairy and Dairy Products- 2nd edition, General Guidelines on Sampling for Microbiological Analysis and the Methods for testing of Fortificants (Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B12) in Fortified Rice. These manuals are available on the FSSAI Website.

### **IV. Release of funds under MoU framework**

Under the Scheme of MoU with States/UTs, FSSAI has been providing financial and technical assistance to States/UTs since 2020-21 against approved work plans to address the gaps in the food safety ecosystem and improve the overall food safety status in the country. These activities include upgrading State Food Testing eco-system, organizing various FSSAI initiatives, conducting IEC activities, setting up helpdesk for licensing & registration, audits of State licensed FBOs, testing of samples in FSSAI empanelled private laboratories, organizing Basic FoSTAC training for FBOs etc. Funds are provided under Central Sector Scheme as well as from non-CSS funds. During October, 2022, a sum of Rs. 1460.96 lakh (CSS- Rs. 1060.90 lakh, non-CSS Rs. 400.06 lakh) was released to two States.

Overall, under the MoU framework during current financial year 2022-23, an amount of Rs.7991.67 lakh under Central Sector Scheme (SoFTeL) and Rs. 17749.75 lakh under non-CSS totaling Rs. 25741.42 lakh (257.41 Crore) has been released to 31 States/UTs till end of October, 2022.

### **V SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE**

**Awareness-** FSSAI undertakes various IEC activities to facilitate and educate stakeholders about safe food and healthy diets by utilizing different channels of communication using both online modes including print, electronic & social media and offline mediums including events/exhibitions. In the month of October, 2022, for creating public awareness, a total of 23 Creatives were created and circulated through different Social Media Platforms of FSSAI.

**Eat Right India initiatives :** Under Eat Right India initiatives, FSSAI certifies various food businesses/clusters on meeting the prescribed benchmarks for food safety and hygiene. Several benchmarking and certification schemes have been initiated to improve food safety and hygiene levels across food establishments. Total number of Certificates awarded during the month of October, 2022 are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Initiative	Total
1.	Clean Street Food Hub	01
2.	Clean and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Market	13
3	Eat Right Station	2

### Other Activities

1. An orientation session was conducted virtually for Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers to sensitise them about the Eat Right Creativity Challenge in the month of October 2022.
2. "Recipe Challenge for Complimentary Food for Children (upto 2 years)" was launched in the month of October 2022 with an objective to encourage NetProFaN chapters to share innovative, traditional, local-seasonal recipes for complimentary food for children upto 2 years.

## VI TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

(a) **Food Handlers-** FoSTaC Training programme of FSSAI focuses on ensuring Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and proper hygiene and sanitation in food service establishments. These short duration training programs for food handlers are being organized regularly through empanelled Training Partners and trainers. During October, 2022, 13829 food handlers were trained through 414 Food Safety Supervisor trainings.

(b) **Regulatory Personnel and FSSAI officials-** FSSAI is also regularly conducting trainings for Regulatory Personnel and Regular employees of FSSAI. Details of trainings conducted during the month of October, 2022 for such personnel are as follows :

Name of Training	Number of trainings	Number of people trained
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<b>Induction Training Programme of Designated Officers of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu &amp; Kashmir, Karnataka, Mizoram, Maharashtra, APHO/PHO, Central Designated Officer conducted from 10 October, 2022 to 15 October, 2022 at ITCFSAN Mumbai.</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>49</b>
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**( c) Laboratory Personnel and other stakeholders**

FSSAI conducted 4 Hands-on Training programs for Analysis of Contaminants in Food commodities Analysis of Trace Metals using ICP-MS and Pesticide Residue using LC-MSMS in Dairy Products and Sensitization on Method Verification for Rice Fortificant Testing State/UTs, laboratory personnel conducted in coordination with (i) Ashwamedh Lab, Nasik (ii) FSSC, NFL Ghaziabad (iii) EFRAC Kolkata. 24 participants attended these training program.

Food Safety Solution Centre (FSSC), NFL Ghaziabad conducted 1 online training program called “Be sure of Honey authenticity” for State laboratories. 120 participants attended the online training program.

ITC-FSAN, Mumbai conducted 21 training programs in online and offline mode on various topics such as Understanding Food Regulation of India, Session of Food Product Development as per domestic regulations, Ethiraj: Food Product Development as per Domestic Regulations, Industry Academic Interaction with FSSAI Eat Right India, Induction Training Programme of Designated Officers, FSS (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018, Accreditation under Integrated Assessment for Laboratories, Microbiological Sampling of Fish and Fish Products, FoSTaC Advanced Catering for FBOs, Regulatory personnel, Catering staff of INS Hamla, Mumbai, State Laboratories, students, Food Safety Officers of Northern region etc. 1148 participants attended the training program.

**VII Miscellaneous Activities-**

**Cultural event-** To celebrate the festive season, FSSAI organised "Jashn-e-Roshni" and conducted various competitions for the employees on 19-20 October, 2022. The event witnessed huge participation in every activity including Rangoli Competition, Division Decoration and Ethnic Dress Competition. These competitions were conducted on various themes keeping the Swachhta 2.0 Mission in view. In addition, this event was envisioned to promote team spirit and inculcate a sense of camaraderie among the employees.

**Vigilance Awareness Week-** FSSAI is celebrating Vigilance Awareness Week, 2022 (31.10.2022-06.11.2022) . An Integrity Pledge was administered to the Officers and staff on 31-10-2022 .