

A Brief update on recall pilot

A meeting on recall pilot was held under the Chairmanship of Shri V. N. Gaur, CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The Representatives from Food Industries, GS1 India(a non profit organisation under Ministry of Commerce) and FSSAI officials were present to discuss the feasibility in executing the product recall and share the experience and feedback from the Industries and GS1.

CEO, FSSAI, expressed that the system should be designed in a manner with a future focus to meet the competing strategy that is prevailing in the industry with the following suggestions.

- Initiation can be given to develop the recall portal, which reflects Indian regulatory requirements either by FSSAI or with the help of GS1.
- The draft recall procedure should be changed to accommodate the requirements to suit the regulatory demands and should be placed before the Food Authority for approval.
- Traceability is an issue therefore a proposal needs to be prepared for requirement of a traceability system including cost.
- A mobile based traceability system can be developed. We can incentivise the system to bring the unorganised sector in the net especially mandies.
- Focus on food security need to be emphasized to minimise the wastage of food, by selective recall based on the essential ingredients in the product. FSSAI may propose to make Recall essential in the Food Security Bill.
- The organisations like Food Corporation of India (FCI), State Trading Corporation (STC) and defence organisation can be brought into the system to make it more efficient.

The FSSAI is in the process to issue the draft regulation on Food recall procedures to carryout food recall. The draft will be notified for the public comments after the approval of the Food Authority and Central Government.

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