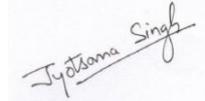


Dated, the 15th July, 2021

Notice Inviting Public Comments on Proposed Testing fees

FSSAI is in process of revising the testing charges for regulatory samples (domestic and import samples)

2. In this regard, a committee was constituted to revisit the testing fees. The committee has submitted its report. The existing testing fees, justification for revision and testing fee recommended by the committee are attached for seeking the public comments.
3. Accordingly, the public/stakeholders may furnish their comments/suggestions in the prescribed format within a period of 30 days of the publication of this notice on the website to FSSAI through email (labs@fssai.gov.in).



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Introduction

At present, as per the order no. 10/QA/Lab costing/FSSAI/2016 dated 10.06.2016 [available at Advisories/orders - FSSAI website] there are two package rates for food testing for ease of operation and integration in single window system for imports. The package rates are uniformly applicable for both domestic and import samples. The package rates are as follows:

Table 1. Package rates for food testing

S. No.	Food Category	Testing Fees
1.	All food categories except those mentioned at serial no. 2(a) & 2(b) below	Rs. 5000/- per sample for complete testing as per FSSR
2. (a)	Food for Infant nutrition	Rs. 12000/- per sample for complete testing as per FSSR
i.	Infant Milk Food	
ii.	Infant Formula	
iii.	Milk cereal based complementary Foods	
iv.	Processed cereal based complementary Foods	
(b)	Package drinking water and Mineral water	

Further, it was clarified vide order of even number dated 07.07.2017 [available at Advisories/orders - FSSAI website] that the above mentioned testing package rates are also applicable for all kind of regulatory samples collected by various officers (Food Safety officer, authorizing officer etc.)

The order 15022/01/2019-QA dated 08.04.2019 [available at Advisories/orders - FSSAI website] fixed the testing charge of Rs. 1200/- (excluding taxes) per sample for analysis of protein and calories in meals under Integrated child development services (ICDS) and Mid day Meal scheme by FSSAI notified laboratories.

Justification for revising testing fees

1. The charges have not been revised since June 2016. Laboratories are facing difficulty in testing all the parameters at given fixed testing fees.
2. Various new products, quality and safety parameters have been added under FSSR regulation after 2016.
3. The testing fees of the food product acts as the revenue which can be ploughed back for meeting the expenses towards the running of the food testing laboratory.
4. Different food products are tested for different parameters using different sample preparation methods and various instrumentation techniques. Therefore, considering the complexity of the food matrices the rationalization of testing fees is also important.

5. Having a viable network of laboratories with well established 3Ms i.e. Manpower, Machine and Methods is the need of the hour. It is only possible when the laboratories (Public or Private) are self sustainable.
6. In order to maintain the laboratory in a sustainable mode without compromising in the quality of testing, there is an urgent need to revise the fees.
7. The revised testing charges will act as a stimulant for different laboratories to get accreditation under NABL-FSSAI integrated mode

Constitution and Recommendations of testing fee committee

Keeping in view of above requirements, a Testing fee committee was constituted to revisit the existing testing fees fixed by FSSAI under FSS Act/Rules/Regulations including the representative from referral laboratory, State laboratory, Private notified laboratories, Bureau of Indian Standard and Export Inspection Council

Committee recommended the proposed testing rates considering the cost of necessary requirements such as equipment runtime, utility cost, cost of Chemicals, CRMs, manpower cost, overhead etc. and suggested to modify the rates for various parameters in different food categories. The charges were fixed for each food category by grouping of the parameters [eg. General parameters (Quality parameter), Additives, fortificants/Nutraceuticals, Contaminants, Pesticides Residues, Antibiotic Residues, Microbiological parameter etc.].

Based on the deliberations, the testing fees as recommended by the committee are placed in the table below:

Table 3: Testing Charges for Dairy Products & Analogues and Fats, Oils & Fat Emulsions

Regulation	Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011							
Regulation No	2.1			2.2				
Product Category	Dairy Products & Analogues			Fats, Oils & Fat Emulsions				
Sub category 	Milk	Milk Products	Foods for infant nutrition	Oils	Edible Fats	Edible Fats with animal origin	Margarine and Fat Spread	Other (hydrogenated, interesterified)
Parameter Groups 								
Proximate analysis/ General Parameters	1500	1500	2500	4500	4500	4500	4500	4500
Adulterants	1000	1000		1500	1000		1000	1000
Heavy Metals	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Methyl mercury	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Crop contaminants & NOTS	1000 (M1)	1000 (M1)	1000 (M1)	1000	1000		1000	1000
Melamine	1000	1000	1000					
Histamine, PCBs, PAHs								
Pesticide residues	3000	3000	3000					
Additives		1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Vitamins			4000	2000				2000
Minerals			1500					
Microbiology	2500	2500	2500					
Antibiotic residues	3000					4000		
Final cost	15500	14000	19500	13000	10500	12500	10500	12500

Note:

- 1. In case of fortified milk, additional Rs. 2000 may be charged for Vit. A and Vit. D together.**
- 2. In case of infant foods(milk cereal based complementary food, processed cereal based complementary food), Total Aflatoxin and Aflatoxin B1 is also to be considered. So, additional Rs. 1000 may be added.**
- 3. In case of fats, oils and fat emulsions, Rs. 4500 for general parameters also includes fatty acid profiling and hexane residue**
- 4. In case of oils(Cotton seed oil, Groundnut oil, Mustard oil, Coconut, Soyabean oil), the testing fee of Rs. 3000 for pesticide residues can be added , wherever applicable as per FSSR**

Table 4: Testing Charges for Fruit & Vegetable products and Cereal & Cereal products

Regulation	Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011					
Regulation No	2.3		2.4			
Product Category	Fruits & Vegetable Products		Cereals & Cereal Products			
Sub category ➔	Fruits & vegetable products	Dried fruits & nuts	Flours	Food grains and pulses	Cereal Products	Malt and malt based foods
Parameter Groups ⬇						
Proximate analysis/ General Parameters	2000	2000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Adulterants						
Heavy Metals	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Methyl mercury	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Crop contaminants & NOTS		1000	2000	2000	2000	2000
Melamine		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Histamine, PCBs, PAHs						
Pesticide residues	4000	4000	3000	3000		
Additives	1500	1500				
Vitamins						
Minerals						
Microbiology	2500	2500				2500
Antibiotic residues						
Final cost	12500	14500	11500	11500	8500	11000

Note:

- In case of Apple juice or apple juice used as an ingredients in other beverages, additional Rs.1000 may be added for Patulin*
- In case of stone fruit juices or canned stone fruit, additional Rs.500 may be added for analysis of Hydrocyanic acid*
- In case of Food containing mushrooms, additional Rs.500 may be added for analysis of Agaric acid*
- In case of fortified atta and maida, additional Rs. 2000 may be added when fortified with iron, folic acid and Vit.B12. In addition, Rs. 2000 may be added if also fortified with zinc, Vit A, Thiamine, Riboflavin, Niacin, and Pyridoxine, if declared on level.*
- In some flours (maida, Paushtik maida, Besan, Pearl barley, Whole meal barley powder, Soy flour, etc.), Food grains and pulses and cereal products additional Rs.*

1500 for all additives (as mentioned on the label) can be added, wherever applicable

6. In case of solvent extracted flours (soy flour, sesame flour, coconut flour, groundnut flour & cotton seed flour, Rs. 1500 may be added for microbiological parameters (Total bacterial count, coliform count, Salmonella).
7. In case of Formulated supplement for children, additional Rs. 4000 for all vitamins, Rs. 1500 for all minerals and Rs. 1500 for all additives (as mentioned on the label) may be. The total testing fee of formulated supplement for children - Rs. 18000

Table 5: Testing Charges for Meat & Meat products, Fish & Fish products and Sweet & Confectionary

Regulation	Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011				
Regulation No	2.5		2.6		2.7
Product Category	Meat & Meat Products		Fish & Fish Products		Sweets & Confectionery
Sub category ↓ Parameter Groups	Fresh and frozen meat and eggs	Processed and preserved meat	Fresh	Processed and preserved	
Proximate analysis/ General Parameters	1500	1500	1500	1500	2000
Adulterants			750 (formalin)		
Heavy Metals	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Methyl mercury	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Crop contaminants & NOTS	500 (only saffrole)	500 (only saffrole)	500 (only saffrole)	500 (only saffrole)	500 (HCN)
Melamine	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Histamine, PCBs, PAHs			2000	2000	
Pesticide residues	3000	3000	1000		
Additives		1500		1500	1500
Vitamins					
Minerals					
Microbiology	2500	2500	3000	3000	
Antibiotic residues	4000	4000	4000	4000	
Final cost	15000	16500	16250	16000	7500

Note:

1. In case of Fish and fish product, additional Rs.2000 may be charged for biotoxins, wherever applicable as per FSSR

Table 6: Testing Charges for sweetening agents including honey, Salt, spices, condiments & related products and Beverages, (Other than Dairy and Fruits & Vegetables based)

Regulation	Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011						
Regulation No	2.8		2.9		2.10		
Product Category	Sweetening Agents including Honey		Salt, spices, condiments and related products		Beverages, (Other than Dairy and Fruits & Vegetables based)		
Sub category 	Sweetening Agents	Honey	Salt	Spices	Tea, Coffee, Beverages Non Alcoholic etc.	Packaged Drinking Water, Mineral Water	Alcoholic Beverages
Parameter Groups 							
Proximate analysis/ General Parameters	2000	8500 (including analysis of authenticity parameters)	3000 (including all mineral to be tested)	2000	2000	2000	2000
Adulterants				500			
Heavy Metals	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Methyl mercury	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Crop contaminants and NOTS				1000	500 (only saffrole)		2000 (4 NOTS)
Melamine							
Histamine, PCBs, PAHs						2000	
Pesticide residues				3000	3000	4000	
Additives	1500		1500	1500	1500		1500
Vitamins							
Minerals						1500	
Microbiology				2500		2500	
Antibiotic residues		3000					
Final cost	6000	14000	7000	13000	9500	14500	8000

Note:

- 1. In case of Packaged drinking water, Mineral water etc., additional Rs.5000 for radioactivity testing (Alpha activity & beta activity)***
- 2. In case of Carbonated water and non carbonated water based beverages, additional Rs. 1000 for microbiological parameters (total plate count, coliform count and yeast & mould count)***
- 3. In case of Beer, microbiological parameters are to be tested; additional Rs.2500 may be added to the testing charges for all microbiological parameters.***

Table 7: Testing Charges for Other Food Products, Proprietary foods, Nutraceuticals and Organic foods

Regulation	Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011		Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Food Safety and Standards (Organic Food) Regulation, 2017
Regulation No	2.11	2.12	-	-
Product Category	Other Food Products*	Proprietary foods	Products under this regulation	Organic Foods
Parameter Category	Rs. 6000 is fixed for the products under this category	The cost of nearest food category will be applicable.	Rs. 15000 fixed for nutraceuticals	The cost of standard food category will be applicable.

Note

**The products included are Baking Powder, Catechu, Gelatin, Silver leaf, Pan Masala, carob powder, Dietary Fibre, Special dietary food with low sodium content. Rs. 6000 includes general parameter, heavy metal, Methyl mercury, NOTS and Additives.*