

FOOD SAFETY BULLETIN

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FSSAI Issues Advisory To Food Business Operators Regarding Selling / Marketing Of Reconstituted Fruit Juices As “100% Fruit Juices”

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (“**FSSAI**”), through its [advisory dated 14 August 2024](#), has extended the deadline for using up pre-printed package materials that label reconstituted fruit juices as “100% Fruit Juices” until 31 December 2024. The previous deadline, set by an advisory on 3 June 2024, was due to expire on 31 August 2024. However, this extension was granted after various stakeholders expressed their concerns.

This move by the FSSAI shows its responsiveness to industry feedback and highlights the practical challenges that stakeholders face in meeting regulatory deadlines. The original deadline may have been too ambitious, not fully considering the logistical and financial burdens on manufacturers.

FSSAI Issues Advisory To Food Testing Laboratories For Improved Import Clearance Processes

The FSSAI, through its advisory [dated 16 August 2024](#), issued guidelines to food testing laboratories listed on the Food Import and Clearance System (“**FICS**”) portal. These guidelines aim to streamline the import clearance process and reduce delays caused by errors in test report uploads.

Key guidelines include the timely generation and upload of test reports within five days of receiving samples. The laboratories are also required to meticulously verify test parameters and results, use the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories’ (“**NABL**”) symbol correctly in FORM-2 reports, and adhere to accredited testing methods. Additionally, laboratories must promptly communicate with the Authorized Officers if there are any delays.

By implementing these measures, the FSSAI aims to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of food import clearance procedures. This initiative ultimately safeguards the quality and safety of imported food products entering the country.

FSSAI Launches Groundbreaking Project To Address Microplastic Contamination In Indian Food

The FSSAI has launched a pioneering project to tackle the growing concern of microplastic contamination in food, as shared in a [press release dated 18 August 2024](#). Titled “Micro-and Nano-Plastics as Emerging Food Contaminants: Establishing Validated Methodologies and Understanding the Prevalence in Different Food Matrices,” this innovative initiative aims to develop and validate analytical methods for detecting micro and nano-plastics in various food products. It also seeks to assess their prevalence and exposure levels in India.

The project, which began in March 2024, is being implemented in collaboration with leading research institutions across the country. These include the CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (Lucknow), ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (Kochi), and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (Pilani).

Key objectives of the project are:

- 1** Developing standard protocols for micro / nano-plastic analysis;
- 2** Conducting intra and inter-laboratory comparisons; and
- 3** Generating critical data on microplastic exposure levels among Indian consumers.

This initiative aligns with recent findings from the Food and Agriculture Organization (“FAO”) that highlight the presence of microplastics in common food items such as sugar and salt. It underscores the FSSAI’s commitment to ensuring food safety for Indian consumers. The project’s outcomes are expected to inform regulatory actions and contribute significantly to the global understanding of microplastic contamination in food.

FSSAI Withdraws Advisory On ‘A1’ And ‘A2’ Milk Claims, Allowing Continued Marketing

The FSSAI, through an order dated [26 August 2024](#), has withdrawn its recent advisory from 21 August 2024, which had directed food businesses to remove claims of ‘A1’ and ‘A2’ types of milk and milk products from packaging. This decision comes after the regulator identified the need for further consultations with stakeholders. The withdrawal allows Food Business Operators (“**FBOs**”) to continue selling and marketing their products with ‘A1’ and ‘A2’ milk claims, pending further engagement.

Initially, the FSSAI had stated that these claims did not conform with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, as current regulations do not recognize the differentiation between A1 and A2 milk, which is linked to the structure of beta-casein protein. The original advisory also instructed e-commerce platforms to remove these claims from products and websites immediately and had given FBOs a six-month period to exhaust pre-printed labels.

Given the ongoing debate about the health implications of A1 versus A2 milk, it would be more constructive for the FSSAI to provide clear, science-based guidelines rather than an outright ban. This approach could help consumers make informed choices while ensuring that labelling practices remain transparent and accurate.



FSSAI Re-Operationalizes Draft Regulations For Health Supplements And Nutraceuticals

Vide an [order dated 30 August 2024](#), the FSSAI announced the re-operationalization of the draft Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, and Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations 2022, effective from 1 July 2024. This decision follows a directive issued on 5 June 2024 and aims to maintain regulatory oversight while the final notification of these regulations is pending.

The re-operationalized regulations supersede the 2016 regulations and outline comprehensive requirements for various food categories, including health supplements, nutraceuticals, foods for special dietary use, foods for special medical purposes, and prebiotic and probiotic foods.

Key improvements within these regulations include guidelines for supplements for children above two years of age and the introduction of new product formats such as drops, gummies, chewable, and mouth-dissolving strips. These enhancements reflect the FSSAI's commitment to addressing evolving consumer needs and industry trends.

The regulations also specify general and labelling requirements applicable across all food categories, as well as specific standards for individual categories. This ensures consumer safety and product quality in this rapidly evolving sector of the food industry. This move underscores the FSSAI's proactive approach to fostering innovation while maintaining stringent safety standards.

FSSAI Re-Operationalizes Draft Food Safety And Standards (Labelling And Display) Amendment Regulations 2022

The FSSAI has issued a directive, [dated 30 August 2024](#), under Section 16(5) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, to re-operationalize the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Amendment Regulations 2022. These regulations were originally notified on 30 November 2022 for public input and have since undergone several updates, with the most recent re-operationalization on 5 June 2024. Noting that the finalization of these draft regulations will take some time, the FSSAI has decided to implement the provisions from the 5 June 2024 directive, effective 1 July 2024.

This move aims to enhance food labelling requirements in India by mandating essential information such as ingredients, nutritional details, and allergen warnings on labels. The regulations focus on comprehensive labelling rules for non-retail containers and minimally processed foods, along with clear warning statements for products like pan masala.

Although the re-operationalization excludes the provision regarding tolerance limits for declared nutrients on labels, it represents a significant step towards improving food safety and consumer awareness in the country. This proactive approach by the FSSAI highlights the importance of transparency and accuracy in food labelling, which is crucial for protecting public health and fostering trust in food products.



September 2024

Kerala High Court Highlights Legislative Gap In Food Safety Act, Urges Central Government Action

The Kerala High Court, in its [judgment dated 4 September 2024](#), in **Pepsico India Holdings Pvt. Ltd v State of Kerala (Cri.M.C. No.8950 of 2016)**, has exposed a significant lacuna in the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and its associated regulations. The case, involving PepsiCo India Holdings Private Limited and other accused parties, centred around the sale of Mint & Lemon Flavoured Green Iced Tea containing undeclared saccharin and caffeine. The court's ruling highlighted the absence of provisions to address conflicting reports between the initial food analyst and the referral food Laboratory. In this instance, the initial report cited saccharin as the problematic ingredient, while the referral lab identified caffeine, creating a legal impasse that led to the quashing of charges against PepsiCo.

The Kerala High Court emphasized that the right to safe food is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and directed the Central Government to address this legislative oversight. This decision is in sync with another order of the Kerala High Court, wherein the Court issued strict directions to enforce food safety standards and regulations, following the death of a young woman in 2022, after consuming shawarma.

This decision underscores the need for a comprehensive and foolproof legal framework to ensure food safety, calling for amendments to the FSSAI to handle cases with divergent analytical reports. By highlighting the deficiencies in the current regulatory system, the court's ruling aims to strengthen consumer protection in food safety matters and ensure that such legal ambiguities do not undermine the enforcement of food safety standards.

FSSAI Issues Advisory To Curb Adulteration Of Sweet, Savoury, Milk And Milk Product During The Festive Season

On [10 September 2024](#), the FSSAI issued an advisory to initiate special drives aimed at curbing adulteration in sweet and savory items, as well as milk and milk products like ghee, khoya, and paneer. This advisory comes in response to the increased demand for these products during the festive season, which creates economic incentives for adulteration to meet consumer demand.

To counteract this issue, the FSSAI has recommended several preventive actions. These include the implementation of special surveillance and enforcement drives by food safety officers and designated officers. These efforts will particularly target hotspots known for such practices within their jurisdictions.



These measures are intended to be effective tools in curbing adulteration, ensuring the safety and integrity of these high-demand products during the festive period.

FSSAI Expands Instant License / Registration Scheme Nationwide For Select Food Businesses

The FSSAI has expanded its Instant (“**Tatkal**”) issuance scheme for food licenses and registrations, as per an [advisory dated 11 September 2024](#). Initially launched on 1 July 2024 in select states and union territories, the scheme has now been extended nationwide, excluding only Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya. This expansion became effective from 31 August 2024.

The Tatkal scheme allows a wide range of food businesses, including wholesalers, distributors, retailers, and mobile food vendors, to obtain instant licenses or registrations through the Food Safety Compliance System (“**FOSCOS**”). The streamlined process relies on digital verification methods using GST, PAN, and AADHAAR, along with other specific requirements outlined in the earlier advisory.

This nationwide rollout (excluding Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya) of the Tatkal scheme underscores FSSAI’s commitment to facilitating ease of doing business while maintaining rigorous food safety standards. By accelerating the formalization and regulatory compliance of diverse food businesses across India, the FSSAI aims to enhance food safety oversight while promoting a more efficient and accessible licensing process for the food industry.

FSSAI Announces 50% Reduction In Testing Fees For Pan-India Surveillance Programs And Issues Subsequent Clarification

The FSSAI has implemented a significant 50% reduction in testing fees for its Pan-India surveillance programs, as per an [order dated 11 September 2024](#). This move aims to enhance food safety monitoring and risk assessment efforts across the country. By reducing fees, the FSSAI expects to encourage greater stakeholder participation in its surveillance initiatives.

The fee reduction applies to all food categories and is anticipated to lead to more comprehensive data collection and food safety assessments. This will ultimately benefit consumers by improving the safety of food products. This decision follows previous orders and corrigenda issued by the FSSAI regarding testing charges for various food categories, including fruit and vegetable products, cereals, and cereal products.

In a subsequent clarification issued on 25 September 2024, the FSSAI emphasized that the fee reduction is specifically applicable to surveillance activities conducted by the QA Division of FSSAI Headquarters. The authority made it clear that this reduction does not extend to surveys carried out under the National Annual Surveillance Plan (NASP) or any other regular surveillance programs implemented by states or union territories.

To ensure proper implementation, the QA Division will inform notified laboratories prior to each Pan-India surveillance activity. This clarification aims to prevent any misunderstandings and ensures that the fee reduction is applied as intended, focusing on the specific surveillance efforts of the FSSAI Headquarters. By delineating the scope of the fee reduction, the FSSAI aims to enhance the efficacy of its central surveillance programs, thereby strengthening the overall food safety framework in India.

FSSAI Designates Cerans As Testing Laboratory For Prohibited Substances In Sports Nutrition Products

Vide [notification dated 12 September 2024](#), FSSAI notified the Centre of Excellence for Research and Analysis of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances ("**CERANS**") as an authorized laboratory for testing 'Food for Sportsperson' products. Located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, CERANS has been accredited to conduct tests for substances prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency ("**WADA**") under the discipline of 'Chemical-Nutritional Supplement'. This move aligns with the Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food, and Novel Food) Regulations 2016, which mandate that 'Food for Sportsperson' products must not contain any WADA-prohibited substances.

The designation of CERANS empowers enforcement authorities to utilize its services for testing sports nutrition products, thereby strengthening food safety regulations and supporting athletes and consumers in making informed choices. By ensuring that 'Food for Sportsperson' products are free from banned substances, this initiative aims to uphold the integrity of sports and protect athletes' health. The laboratory's scope of accreditation and any updates can be accessed on the NABL website, ensuring transparency and up-to-date information for all stakeholders. This strategic move not only enhances regulatory compliance but also reinforces consumer trust in the safety and quality of sports nutrition products available in the market.

FSSAI Implements Agreement With Bhutan To Streamline Food Imports And Enhance Bilateral Trade

Vide an office [order dated 13 September 2024](#), the FSSAI has announced the implementation of a landmark agreement signed on 21 March 2024, between India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, FSSAI, and the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority ("**BFDA**"). This agreement aims to streamline food exports from Bhutan to India.

Under this new framework, the BFDA's control over Bhutanese Food Business Operators FBOs is recognized as equivalent to FSSAI's standards. This is a significant step towards facilitating easier trade and ensuring compliance with food safety standards between the two countries.

As part of the agreement, the BFDA will issue Health Certificates to certify that food products exported to India meet FSSAI's requirements. FSSAI has instructed its officers to grant No Objection Certificates ("**NOC**") for food consignments from Bhutan that are accompanied by these prescribed Health Certificates, issued by BFDA's authorized signatories.

The initiative focuses on aligning regulatory frameworks, simplifying food import procedures, and strengthening capacity-building initiatives. By recognizing BFDA's control over FBOs in Bhutan, both nations underscore their commitment to maintaining high food safety standards.

This collaborative effort aims to address implementation challenges and foster smoother bilateral trade relations, ultimately benefiting both countries.



Government Urges Edible Oil Industry To Maintain MRP Amid Customs Duty Hikes

Vide a [press release dated 17 September 2024](#), the Government announced that the Department of Food and Public Distribution (“**DFPD**”) has taken proactive measures to stabilize edible oil prices following recent changes to import duties.

In a high-level meeting held in September 2024, the DFPD Secretary engaged with key industry stakeholders. These included representatives from the Solvent Extraction Association of India (SEAI), Indian Vegetable Oil Producers’ Association (IVPA), and Soyabean Oil Producers Association (SOPA) to discuss pricing strategies. The government has strongly advised edible oil associations to maintain current Maximum Retail Prices (“**MRP**”) until stocks imported under the previous lower customs duty regime (0% and 12.5%) are exhausted.

This directive comes in response to the recent increase in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on crude and refined oils, effective from 14 September 2024. The new rates are 27.5% for crude oils and 35.75% for refined oils. This duty hike is part of a broader strategy to support domestic oilseed farmers as new soybean and groundnut crops enter the market.

While these measures aim to bolster domestic oilseed prices and protect local farmers, the government has emphasized the need for the oil industry to align domestic prices with international trends. This is to minimize the burden on consumers. The government aims to strike a delicate balance between supporting agricultural producers and maintaining affordability for the general public, ensuring that the interests of both stakeholders are addressed in a manner that promotes economic stability and consumer welfare.

October 2024

FSSAI Mandates NABL Symbol On Food Testing Reports And Introduces Standardized Formats

The FSSAI, vide an [order dated 15 October 2024](#), mandated the use of the NABL symbol in test reports issued by accredited food testing laboratories. This directive is part of the Food Safety and Standards (First Amendment) Rules, 2022.

The order introduces revised test report formats:



Form VII A:
Report of the Food Analyst



Form XI:
Certificate of Analysis by the
Referral Food Laboratory



These standardized formats aim to ensure consistency in test results and reporting practices across the food testing industry. All FSSAI-notified laboratories accredited under ISO/IEC 17025:2017 must now include the NABL symbol on their test reports for tests within their accreditation scope, adhering to the NABL 133 policy.

The implementation of this order is expected to have a substantial impact on food safety in India. By requiring the NABL symbol on test reports, the FSSAI aims to provide greater assurance to consumers and regulatory authorities regarding the reliability and accuracy of food testing results. This move is anticipated to strengthen the credibility of food testing laboratories and enhance transparency in food safety assessments.

For imported food products, notified laboratories and referral laboratories must use Form-2 as specified in the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulation, 2017. This comprehensive approach underscores FSSAI's commitment to elevating food safety standards and ensuring that test results are uniformly credible and trustworthy.

FSSAI Implements Agreement With Bhutan Food And Drug Authority For Streamlined Food Import Process

The FSSAI has issued an [order on 17 October 2024](#), implementing an agreement signed with the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority ("**BFDA**") on 21 March 2024. This agreement recognizes BFDA's regulatory control over Bhutanese FBOs as equivalent to FSSAI standards, thereby streamlining the import process for Bhutanese food products into India.

Effective 21 October 2024, FSSAI officers are directed to grant NOCs for food consignments from Bhutanese manufacturers based on compliant Health Certificates issued by BFDA Competent Authorities.

The required documentation includes:



A copy of the approved Health Certificate;



Authorized signatories' signatures; and



A list of approved Bhutanese establishments with their scopes of approval.

This initiative aims to enhance trade efficiency and facilitate smoother cross-border food transactions between India and Bhutan. By recognizing BFDA's regulatory framework as equivalent, FSSAI seeks to reduce redundancy in regulatory checks while maintaining food safety standards.

This strategic alignment is expected to foster stronger bilateral trade relations and ensure that food products entering India from Bhutan meet the requisite safety and quality benchmarks.



November 2024

FSSAI Advisory On Supreme Court Order Mandating Self-Declaration For Advertisements To Curb Misleading Content

Vide an [advisory dated 11 November 2024](#), the FSSAI has advised compliance with the Supreme Court's order dated 7 May 2024, in the case of **Indian Medical Association (IMA) & Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors. (WPC No. 645 of 2022)**. This advisory informs all FBOs about new requirements aimed at curbing misleading advertisements and protecting consumer interests.

As per the Supreme Court's directive, advertisers and advertising agencies must now submit a self-declaration on designated portals before any advertisement is printed, aired, or displayed. This self-declaration certifies compliance with the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks Rules 1994.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has implemented this requirement through new features on the Broadcast Seva Portal for TV and radio advertisements. The Press Council of India's portal caters to print, digital, and internet advertisements. These portals have been operational since 4 June 2024.

The FSSAI advises all FBOs to ensure compliance with these directives. It emphasizes the importance of adhering to the new self-certification process to maintain transparency and protect consumer rights in food-related advertising. This initiative is expected to significantly enhance accountability and integrity in food advertising, ensuring that consumer interests are safeguarded against misleading claims.

FSSAI Mandates PAN Linkage For Food Business Licenses And Registrations

Vide an [order dated 13 November 2024](#), the FSSAI has issued a directive mandating the linkage of Permanent Account Number ("**PAN**") with FSSAI Licenses and Registrations. This requirement is effective from 22 October 2024 and is based on recommendations from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) regarding 'PAN' as a Business Identity.

This mandate applies to all new applications, renewals, and modifications of FSSAI Licenses and Registrations. Existing Food Business Operators (FBOs) with valid licenses or registrations are instructed to promptly update their PAN details on the FOSCOS website under the User Profile Section.

In cases where an FBO does not possess a PAN, they are required to submit a declaration of non-possession. This move aims to enhance transparency and streamline the identification process for food businesses across India, aligning with broader efforts to standardize business identities in the country.

By integrating PAN details with FSSAI licenses and registrations, the FSSAI seeks to facilitate a more efficient regulatory framework. This will ensure accurate tracking and accountability of food business entities. This initiative underscores the commitment to modernize and improve the regulatory processes related to food safety and business operations.

FSSAI Expands High-Risk Food Categories Following Removal Of Mandatory BIS Certification

The FSSAI, vide [an order dated 29 November 2024](#), has expanded its list of 'High Risk Food Categories' following the removal of mandatory Bureau of Indian Standards ("**BIS**") certification for certain products. This notification amends the FSSAI's Risk Based Inspection Scheduling Policy by adding packaged drinking water and mineral water to the high-risk category under non-alcoholic beverages. This strategic revision aims to bolster food safety protocols for these products, which will now be subject to heightened scrutiny.

Furthermore, the FSSAI has mandated pre-license or pre-registration inspections for manufacturers and processors of food products that previously required BIS certification before the 17 October 2024 amendment to the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations 2011. This measure ensures that safety standards are upheld despite the regulatory shift.

The notification also reinforces the requirement for all centrally licensed manufacturers under high-risk food categories to undergo annual audits by FSSAI-recognized third-party food safety auditing agencies. This initiative underscores the authority's commitment to maintaining stringent safety standards in the absence of mandatory BIS certification, ensuring continued consumer protection and trust in high-risk food products.

December 2024

FSSAI Issues Advisory On Food Safety Compliance For E-Commerce Food Business Operators

The FSSAI, vide an [advisory dated 3 December 2024](#), issued a comprehensive advisory emphasizing the importance of compliance in ensuring the safety, quality, and authenticity of food products sold online.

The advisory outlines several key directives. First, it stresses the need to prioritize the training of last-mile delivery personnel in food safety and hygiene practices. This includes ensuring that food and non-food items are delivered separately to prevent cross-contamination. Additionally, it is crucial that online product claims are aligned with the information provided on physical labels, ensuring consistency and accuracy.

The advisory also mandates that e-commerce platforms ensure products have a minimum shelf life of 30% or at least 45 days before expiry at the time of delivery. To enhance transparency and consumer trust, FBOs are encouraged to prominently display the FSSAI License / Registration numbers of sellers and the Hygiene Ratings obtained by FBOs. The FSSAI reiterates that no e-commerce FBO shall list any other FBOs on its platform without displaying their valid FSSAI license or registration.



These measures collectively aim to strengthen the food safety ecosystem, mitigate risks associated with foodborne illnesses and fraudulent practices, and ultimately safeguard consumer health while fostering trust in the online food marketplace. The advisory highlights the critical role of delivery personnel and accurate product information in maintaining food safety standards in the e-commerce sector.

Furthermore, this advisory reflects FSSAI's commitment to adapting regulatory frameworks to the growing e-commerce landscape, ensuring that consumer protection remains a top priority.

FSSAI Updates List Of Approved Food Testing Laboratories

The FSSAI has released an updated list of approved laboratories authorized to analyze food samples, vide [notification dated 12 December 2024](#). This list includes 218 FSSAI Notified NABL Accredited Food Testing Laboratories with valid accreditation, along with their contact information and accreditation status from the NABL. Additionally, the document identifies 24 FSSAI notified laboratories whose NABL accreditation has expired, is under suspension, in the process of denotification, or have relocated without undergoing integrated assessment. The FSSAI emphasizes that the continued validity of these laboratories' recognition is contingent upon their adherence to FSSAI's guidelines and directives, which are subject to periodic updates. This latest revision supersedes the previous list from 24 September 2024.

FSSAI Mandates Quarterly Reporting Of Expired And Rejected Food Products

Vide an [advisory dated 16 December 2024](#), the FSSAI introduced a new directive requiring licensed food manufacturers, importers, re-packers, and re-labelers to submit quarterly reports on expired and rejected food items through its online compliance platform, FOSCOS.

This mandate aims to prevent the resale of expired or rejected food products for human consumption and to promote stricter food safety practices. The directive requires businesses to report quality failures, track expired or returned items, and maintain detailed disposal records. These records should include the methods of destruction, auction, or alternative uses of the products.

Although the FOSCOS reporting system is still under development, food businesses are required to begin collecting the necessary data immediately. This proactive measure ensures that they will be ready to comply seamlessly once the system is fully operational.

This initiative underscores the FSSAI's commitment to enhancing transparency and accountability within the food supply chain. By mandating comprehensive reporting and stringent monitoring, the FSSAI aims to mitigate risks associated with the misuse of expired or rejected food products. This will help safeguard public health and reinforce consumer trust in food safety standards.

FSSAI Updates List Of Approved Laboratories For Testing Fortificants In Rice Products

Vide [order dated 18 December 2024](#), the FSSAI has issued an updated list of approved laboratories for testing fortificants in Fortified Rice (FR), Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK), and Vitamin-Mineral Premix for FRK, effective 18 December 2024. This revision, which supersedes the previous order dated 18 November 2024, includes laboratories with valid NABL accreditation for testing essential nutrients such as iron, Vitamin B12, and Vitamin B9. Notable additions to the list include Interstellar Testing Centre Private Limited and Delhi Analytical Research Laboratory for FRK testing, and Mats India Private Limited and Monarch Biotech Pvt. Ltd for Vitamin-Mineral Premix testing. The FSSAI advises stakeholders to verify the current accreditation status of laboratories on the FSSAI or NABL websites before submitting samples for analysis. This update reflects FSSAI's ongoing efforts to ensure rigorous quality control in the food fortification process, particularly for rice products, which play a crucial role in addressing nutritional deficiencies across India.

FSSAI Revises Sample Quantity Requirements For Imported Vitamin D2

Vide an [order dated 19 December 2024](#), the FSSAI issued a directive revising the sample quantity requirements for imported Vitamin D2. Previously, Vitamin D2 was categorized under "food not specified" with a mandated sample quantity of 500 grams. Acknowledging the high cost of this ingredient, the new directive reduces the required sample size. Authorized Officers are now instructed to collect a representative sample of at least 50 grams, consisting of two 25-gram portions, from imported Vitamin D2 consignments. This change aims to balance regulatory needs with industry concerns about the expense of the ingredient, reflecting a more pragmatic approach to regulatory compliance.

The order also reiterates the importance of proper sample handling and return procedures. In accordance with Regulation 9(9) of the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulation 2017, if the sample is found to be safe, the remaining portion must be returned to the food importer. This directive, effective from 19 December 2024, applies to all Authorized Officers of FSSAI, FSSAI Notified labs, and relevant Customs Department officials.

By adjusting the sample quantity requirements and emphasizing proper handling protocols, the FSSAI aims to streamline the import process. This ensures that safety standards are upheld without imposing undue financial burdens on importers.

January 2025

FSSAI Sets 1 July 2025 as Enforcement Date for Labelling Amendments

Vide an [order dated 3 January 2025](#), the FSSAI, exercising the powers conferred by section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, has decided to set 1 July 2025 as the enforcement date for amendments related to the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, and other labeling provisions under various FSS regulations. This decision was made during the 45th Food Authority meeting.

This timeline ensures that FBOs receive a minimum of 180 days from the date of notification to implement the changes. The extended period is intended to allow for a smoother transition and to reduce operational challenges, such as managing pre-printed packaging materials.

Additionally, this decision aligns with sustainability goals by minimizing packaging waste. By providing ample time for compliance, the FSSAI aims to facilitate the adoption of the new regulations without causing undue disruption to the industry.



FSSAI CEO Emphasizes Enhanced Inspections of High-Risk Food Establishments in Tamil Nadu

Shri G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, CEO of the FSSAI, met with Shri Lalvena, Principal Secretary and Food Safety Commissioner of Tamil Nadu, to discuss strengthening food safety measures in the state, as shared via a [press release dated 22 January 2025](#).

During the meeting, Shri Rao emphasized the need for increased inspections of high-risk food establishments and regular reviews of food testing laboratories. He also urged the expedited development of Healthy and Hygienic Food Streets to provide safe dining options for the public.

Additionally, Shri Rao highlighted the launch of the Food Import Rejection Alert (FIRA) portal, a digital platform designed to provide timely updates on food import rejections. It serves as a resource for exporters, importers, and other stakeholders to understand the reasons for rejection and stay informed about regulatory compliance requirements.



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