

Press note

Food Safety and Standards (Approval for non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017

FSSAI has notified draft regulations on Food Safety and Standards (Approval for non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017 inviting comments and suggestions within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of the notice.

2. After implementation of the Act and the Regulations framed thereunder with effect from 5th August 2011, and the fact that the safety assessment and approval for the non-standardized food was a new concept, the FSSAI introduced a Product Approval system through advisories as a means to undertake safety assessment of the food products and products containing ingredients which do not have standards.
3. However, in view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order vide dated 19.08.2015, it was no longer possible to continue the process of product approvals for non-standardized food products/ ingredients in the absence of legitimate regulations.
4. In order to address the situation arising after discontinuation of the product approval system, FSSAI has amended the provision pertaining to proprietary foods in relevant regulation and also notified 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. With these developments, a larger number of products, that would have otherwise required specific approvals from Food Authority, got covered. However, there are several food products/ ingredients which are still not covered in the any of the regulations made under FSS Act, 2006.
5. Consequently, to provide the opportunity to Food Business Operators to innovate the new food products, FSSAI came up with this draft regulation on Food Safety and Standards (Pre-Market Approval for Non-standardised Food) Regulations, 2017.
7. This regulation covers the following articles of food or food ingredients:
 - (a) novel food or food containing novel ingredients not having a history of human consumption in the country;

- (b) food ingredients with a history of human consumption in the country but not specified in any other regulations made under the Act;
- (c) new additives and processing aids;
- (d) food manufactured or processed with the use of novel technology.

The above regulation will be finalised after considering the comments/ suggestions from the stakeholders.