Office order

In terms of Schedule 1 of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulation 2011 Food Business Operators in Establishments and units under Central Agencies have to obtain FSSAI licenses from Central Licensing Authorities.

2. Representations have been received from the Ministry of Defence for exempting Unit Run Canteens (URCs) from the purview of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licensing. It was informed that these Unit Run Canteens are attached to CSD depots which are licensed by FSSAI and follow all the requirements stipulated under FSS, Act. URCs are attached to the CSD depots and function as a welfare measure for defence personnel, etc. The minuscule profits earned by URCs are also ploughed back for the welfare of the forces.

3. The CSD depots were willing to take responsibility of food safety in respect of the URCs attached to each of them. These CSD depots have already taken FSSAI licences (34 Area depots and one base depot) and all the URCs buy food articles only from these depots. And, stringent protocols are enforced to ensure safety of food articles in all canteen depots run by the Defence services.

4. In view of the above, I am directed to state that the Authority has decided to exempt the URCs from the purview of the FSSAI licensing, subject to following conditions:

   (i) DDG (CS) shall forward the list of URCs under respective CSD depots with the name and specific number allotted to URCs on quarterly basis;
(ii) CSD depots shall be responsible to ensure that all URCS under their respective control adhere to all the provisions of FSS, Act and Rules and Regulations made thereunder;

(iii) All URCS will display FSSAI license number on their premises.

5. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(Rakesh Chandra Sharma)
Director (Enforcement)
Tel. No. 011-23237436

To,

1. All Commissioner of Food Safety of all States/UTs
2. All Central Licensing Authority – Along with the copy of letter No. 96012/Q/DDGCS dated 06th Jan 2016 received from Integrated HQ of MoD (Army), QMG, Canteen Services Dte. regarding details of all the URCS under the respective CSD depots
3. DDG (CS), Integrated HQs of MoD (Army), QMG Branch, Canteen Services Dte., West Block-3, Wing-III, Delhi - 110066
4. PPS to Chairperson
5. PS to CEO
6. IEC Division – For uploading on FSSAI website