



## **FSSAI extends date to submit license renewal applications to March 31**

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The FSSAI has extended the date for submission of applications for renewals of licenses and registrations due to the failure of the Food License and Registration System (FLRS). Food business operators (FBOs) can now have a window period till March 31, 2018 to renew their licenses and registrations without any penalty.

In an order, Garima Singh, director regulatory compliance, FSSAI, stated that the window on FLRS had been extended till March 31, 2018, adding that FBOs can renew their licenses or registrations by this date without any penalty. However, if an FBO fails to do so by March 31, he/she have to submit a fresh application.

It was due to technical glitches that the renewals of licenses and registrations of FBOs were halted under FLRS. Earlier, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said that the technical glitches would be removed by February 15, 2018, and the FBOs who were unable to renew their licenses would be allowed to continue their operations and given a window to renew their licenses and registrations.

Singh, in her latest order, said, "In view of the failure of FLRS, a window was provided till February 15, 2018 for the FBOs to submit their application to renew their licenses and registrations. It has (now) been decided that an extended window on FLRS will be provided to all such FBOs till March 31, without levying a penalty."

However, she added, "In case, if an FBO fails to submit his/her renewal within the extended time period (i e by March 31, 2018), such FBOs will have to submit fresh applications."

The country's apex food regulator, in a letter, stated that FLRS, which is information technology- (IT) enabled, went off-track in December 2017. As a result of this, many FBOs were unable to renew their licenses and registrations to continue their operations.