

## **FSSAI discontinues operations of 14 unaccredited state labs as food labs**

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The apex food regulator has decided to discontinue the operations of 14 state laboratories as food laboratories, after they failed to secure NABL accreditation. FSSAI, in an order, said that despite several reminders to these labs, they failed to submit an undertaking with regards to NABL accreditation.

FSSAI in its order said that in the last two years, it has repeatedly requested states and Union Territories to initiate the NABL accreditation process and submit an undertaking in this regard. It also warned the labs that they will be discontinued as food laboratories under Section 98 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with effect from June 14, 2019.

“However, 14 labs have still not submitted the desired undertaking of obtaining NABL accreditation,” it added.

The state labs that were discontinued include State Food Lab, G B Pant Hospital Campus, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Food Lab; Regional Public Health Lab, Guntur Medical College Campus, Andhra Pradesh; Public Health Lab, Municipal Corporation, Fatehganj, Vadodara, Gujarat; Corporation of City of Mysore Lab, Karnataka; Food Lab Municipal Corporation Indore and Municipal Corporation Food Testing Lab, Ujjain (both in Madhya Pradesh); District Public Health Lab, Jalandhar, Punjab; Public Health Laboratory, Sri Ganga Nagar, Rajasthan; Food Analysis Laboratory, Corporation of Chennai, Tamil Nadu; Central Lab (Food), Kolkata Municipal Corporation; District Public Health Lab, Murshidabad; Public Health Lab, GM Hospital Kalyani, Nadia, and Asansol Mines Board of Health Laboratory (all in West Bengal).

In the order Bhaskar N, advisor quality, FSSAI said, “Since NABL accreditation is the primary criteria to a food lab under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and these 14 labs are continuing under Section 98, Food Safety and Standards Act for over 10 years, and not even initiated the process for obtaining NABL accreditation, it has been decided to discontinue these labs from the ambit of Section 98 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 with effect from June 14, 2019.”