

## Licences will be issued to FBOs in case of unattended applications

03 June, 2019

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Citing several communiques received regarding delay in issuance of licences/registration and non-processing of the application of FBOs (food business operators), FSSAI has stated that food businesses will be issued licences and registrations in case of unattended applications automatically.

The country's apex food regulator has said that on the 61st day of filing of completed application, licence will be issued if no action has been taken by the licencing authority on application for licence after issuance of application ID for 60 days.

An order in this regard was issued by FSSAI. It stated, "If any application for licence remains unaddressed in the designated officers' bins for over 75 days, the licence will be issued on the 76th day of filing of initial application."

It added that registration will be issued on the eighth day of filing of application, if no action has been taken by the registering authority in seven days from the date of submission of application for registration for petty food businesses, which is 30 days currently.

On the rejection of FBO's application, the order stated that on the 31st day from the day of application is sent back to the FBO for replying to queries asked by the licencing authority and if FBOs fail to reply within 30 days, the application shall be rejected.

"The order came into force from April 30, 2019, and the necessary arrangements have been done in the online Food Licencing and Registration System (FLRS), said Parveen Jargar, joint director, regulatory compliance, FSSAI.

It is pertinent to mention here that as per Clause 2.1.4 and 2.1.6 of the Food Safety and Standards Licencing and Registration of Food Businesses Regulations, 2011, if a licence is not issued within 60 days or the applicant has not received any intimation of inadequacy, the applicant may commence his food business, and the concerned licencing authority shall not deny the applicant to commence such business.