

## **Press Release**

# **15 agencies empaneled by FSSAI - Will audit IITs, IIMs**

**New Delhi, Dec 14, 2017:** To strengthen the food safety surveillance system in the country, FSSAI has taken up audits of food business operators through third party audit agencies. FSSAI has empanelled 15 audit agencies in accordance with Food Safety and Standard (Food Safety Auditing) Regulation, 2017.

These include national and international food safety audit agencies like DNV, Bureau Veritas, Intertek, MS Certification, IRCLASS, SGS, BIS, TUV, Indocert among others. For the time being these agencies have been provisionally empanelled since the regulation is still at draft stage.

In recent times, a number of cases of food safety issues have been reported from hostels/canteens of various academic institutions in India. In view of this, FSSAI has ordered special food safety audits of the canteens, cafeterias, hostel mess etc. of 10 select large central institutes of higher education like IIT (Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Guwahati), AIIMS (Delhi and Jodhpur), IIM (Ahmedabad and Kozhikode), IISc Bangalore and IISER Kolkata.

This will help to check the compliance of the premises of hostel mess/canteen/cafeteria etc. where food is handled in these institutions with the food safety and hygiene standards prescribed under the FSS regulations.

These agencies will be given a time frame of one month to conduct the audit and submit the report to FSSAI. These reports will give an insight into the existing standards of food safety and hygiene of these canteens/ hostel mess etc. and will help FSSAI to identify the gaps. It is expected that the results of these audits will serve as guidance to these institutions to improve and maintain the standards of food safety and hygiene in their premises.

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