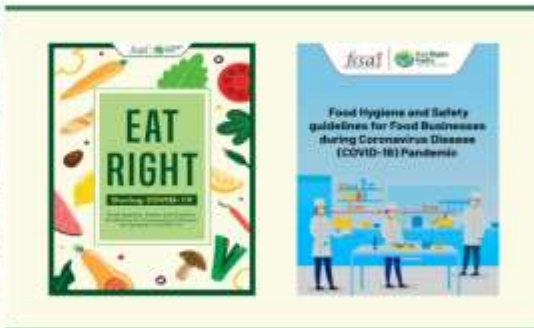


# Transforming India Food Safety & Nutrition System

Date: 12th July 2020

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"Last year, on the occasion of the first World Food Safety Day, the grand carnival and celebrations at FSSAI reaffirmed our commitment together, towards our shared objectives. This year, in 2020, our observation is extremely different and we are working under the shadow of a global pandemic, but still committing to our objectives, to the fullest of our capabilities. In today's scenario, both policy makers as well as the public have perceived that public health services and food safety are integral to governance as well as to the well-being of the society at large. Amidst many challenges, this pandemic has also offered an opportunity to strengthen India's food safety ecosystem. It has underscored the need to mainstream food safety in the public discourse and recognize that every stakeholder has an important role to play as we continue to work together." issues on the ground, backward and forward linkages etc. The near future holds no certainty for us and this compounds the challenge further - both for food businesses as well as the administrators". **Ms. Rita Teotia, Chairperson, FSSAI**



"Food safety is important and an integral part of our existence and has got more substance in wake of the current COVID pandemic. FSSAI is continuously evolving across the value chain from making standards to developing quality assurance and testing infrastructure; capacity building of human resources; strengthening our compliance and surveillance efforts; enabling support to FBOs and awareness generation to the public through the Eat Right India initiative. There is a lot more we need to achieve and it is heartening to see an association of passionate and self-driven stakeholders with FSSAI, who are already contributing towards building the ecosystem of food safety. I am hopeful to have deeper engagements with all our stakeholders as we move forward" **Mr Arun Singhal, CEO FSSAI**

## Editors Note:

I am delighted to announce that on the occasion of the 2nd World Food Safety Day, FSSAI released the results of the second Food Safety Index. FSSAI released an updated guidance note 'Food Hygiene and Safety Guidelines for Food Businesses during Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic'. An e-handbook on "Eat Right during COVID-19" for citizens was also released on this occasion. This eBook highlights safe food practices to be followed and simple tips on health and nutrition. Also, on behalf of FSSAI, I would like to welcome and introduce Shri Arun Singhal who has recently taken over as CEO FSSAI from 01st June onwards. Like all of us, I am hopeful that our stakeholders are also looking forward to working closely under his guidance....P3

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## EDITOR NOTE

Dear Readers,

The 02<sup>nd</sup> World Food Safety Day on June 07, 2020 was observed to draw attention to help prevent and manage food borne illness and to ensure food safety. In alignment with this year's theme "*Food Safety is everyone's business*", Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) organized a webinar which was attended by dignitaries from the Health Ministry, senior officials from the State Food Safety departments, professionals in food and nutrition, development agencies, food businesses and implementation partners.

The current pandemic has set forth new horizons for the food industry to strengthen food hygiene and sanitation practices at their food establishments. To facilitate uninterrupted supply of safe food during this pandemic, the Food Authority, post consultation with the businesses and other experts, released an updated guidance note '*Food Hygiene and Safety Guidelines for Food Businesses during Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic*'. An e-handbook on "*Eat Right during COVID-19*" for citizens was also released that highlights safe food practices to be followed and tips on health and nutrition. It is available at <https://fssai.gov.in/cms/coronavirus.php>.

To encourage and highlight efforts of our State machinery in ensuring effective compliance and food safety mechanism, FSSAI had introduced the concept of State Food Safety Index last year. This index ranks states on five parameters of food safety through a rigorous evaluation process. The results of the second Food Safety Index were released and amongst the larger states, Gujarat was the top-ranking state, followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Among the smaller states, Goa came first followed by Manipur and Meghalaya. Among UTs, Chandigarh, Delhi and Andaman Islands secured top ranks.

On behalf of FSSAI, I would also like to welcome and introduce Shri Arun Singhal who has recently taken over as CEO FSSAI from 01st June onwards. Like all of us, I am hopeful that our stakeholders are also looking forward to working closely under his guidance.

On behalf of FSSAI, I thank you, our patrons and supporters. Please do go through this issue to know more about our key activities and keep sharing your valuable suggestions.

Hope you enjoy reading this issue!

Warmly,

Inoshi Sharma, Director SBCD  
Food Safety & Standards Authority of India  
[directorfssai@gmail.com](mailto:directorfssai@gmail.com)

## **I. Core Regulatory Functions**

### *I.1 Science & Standards:*

#### I.1.1 Order regarding Method for estimation of $\Delta\delta^{13}C$ fru-glu, $\Delta\delta^{13}C_{max}$ and Foreign Oligosaccharides in Honey

An order dated 29.06.2020 stated that the Scientific Panel on Methods of Sampling and Analysis and the Competent Authority FSSAI, has approved the Method for estimation of  $\Delta\delta^{13}C$  fru-glu,  $\Delta\delta^{13}C_{max}$  and Foreign Oligosaccharides in Honey by Elemental Analysis (EA) /Liquid Chromatography (LC), Isotopic Ratio Mass Spectrometry (EA-LC-IRMS). The food testing laboratories are also notified to use the same method with immediate effect.

More Details are available at:

[https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ef9b7b0a0591Order\\_Method\\_Cmax\\_Foreign\\_Oligosaccharides\\_29\\_06\\_2020.pdf](https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ef9b7b0a0591Order_Method_Cmax_Foreign_Oligosaccharides_29_06_2020.pdf)

#### I.1.2 Direction under Section 18(2)(d) read with section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 dated 22nd June 2020 regarding operationisation of certain provisions of draft Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Amendment Regulations, 2020 and draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additive) Amendment Regulations, 2020

As per the direction issued dated 22.06.2020, it has been stated that while the draft regulations are in the process of being notified and the process of draft notification, consideration of comments, if any that may be received thereon and the finalization of these regulations are likely to take some time. Meanwhile, keeping in mind the technical need of certain provisions available in the above said drafts w.r.t Alcohol free Beer and use of certain food colour in Distilled Spiritual Beverages, it has been decided to operationalize the provisions related to Alcohol free Beer and use of certain food colour in Distilled Spiritual Beverages with immediate effect.

More details are available at:

[https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ef1cecf8297eDirection\\_Alcoholic\\_Beverages\\_23\\_06\\_2020.pdf](https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ef1cecf8297eDirection_Alcoholic_Beverages_23_06_2020.pdf)

#### I.1.3 Direction regarding SMR for Rice Syrup in Honey

FSSAI under Section 18 (2) read with Section 16 (5) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 issued a direction dated 05.06.2020 regarding operationalization of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2019 relating to Specific Marker for Rice Syrup (SMR).

More details are available at:

<https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5eda017509a5bDirection Rice Syrup 05 06 2020.pdf>

#### I.1.4 Directions regarding incidental presence of Kesari Gram/ Dal ( Lathyrus Sativus) including other edible pulses/ grains

FSSAI under Section 18 (2) read with Section 16 (5) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 issued a direction dated 04.06.2020 to operationalize Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Amendment Regulations, 2020 relating to incidental presence of Khesari Gram / Dal stating as pulses/raw pulses may contain incidental presence of Kesari Gram/ Dal ( Lathyrus Sativus) including other edible pulses/ grains not exceeding more than 2 per cent by mass with immediate effect till the issuance of final notice issues in this regard.

More details are available at:

<https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ed89d480755eDirection Presence Khesari Gram Dal 04 06 2020.pdf>

### *I.2 Compliance & Enforcement*

#### I.2.1 Launched of food safety compliance system (FoSCoS)

FSSAI launched Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) replacing existing Food Licensing and Registration System in the States/UTs of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Gujarat, Goa, Odisha, Manipur, Delhi, Chandigarh and Ladakh with effect from **01st June 2020**. This system replaces the existing online Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS). Users of these States/UTs are now required to visit <https://foscoss.fssai.gov.in> and login through same user IDs and passwords.

Food Business Operators (FBOs) having License / Registration of premises at Indian Railways and concerned Authorities will continue to operate at Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS) till further announcement.

Food Business Operators (PAN-India) will continue to receive Consumer Grievances and shall respond to these in time-bound manner at FLRS only. FBOs and Authorities to visit FLRS regularly for Consumer Grievance Module until its upgraded version is developed in FoSCoS. For the start, FoSCoS will be offering licensing, registration, inspection and annual return modules. So far, it has been launched in 9 States/UTs viz. Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa, Delhi, Odisha, Manipur, Chandigarh, Ladakh and Puducherry w.e.f 1st June 2020 and will be launched in remaining States/UTs soon. More Details are available at: <https://fssai.gov.in/cms/foscoss.php>



### I.2.2 Mandatory AGMARK Certification along with FSSAI License

A letter dated 29.06.2020 was issued to all Food Commissioners of States and UTs to carry out Enforcement and Surveillance drive to ensure that FBOs are manufacturing and selling blended edible vegetable oil (BEVO) with FSSAI license along with AGMARK certification. Information regarding grant, renewal, suspension or cancellation of FSSAI license in respect of BEVO may be provided to Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) at (E: [dmic@nic.in](mailto:dmic@nic.in)) in future along with an action taken report on a periodic basis

More details are available at:

[https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ef9ae16065c9Letter\\_BEVO AGMA RK\\_29\\_06\\_2020.pdf](https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ef9ae16065c9Letter_BEVO_AGMA RK_29_06_2020.pdf)

### I.2.3 Enhancing surveillance, sampling and Enforcement to check the use of Golden Syrup / Invert Sugar Syrup / Rice Syrup in Honey

In order to curb the misuse of Golden Syrup / Invert Sugar Syrup / Rice Syrup in honey, a letter dated 18.06.2020 was issued to all Food Commissioners of State and UTs to carry out surveillance, sampling and inspection at regular intervals in premises of honey manufacturing/processing units to ensure the quality of Honey as per FSS (Food Product Standards and Food Additive) Regulations, 2011.

It was also requested to submit the details of inspection activities undertaken with an action taken report of non-compliances by FBOs to the FSSAI office latest by 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

More details are available at:

[https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5eeb5206e8624Letter\\_Enforcement Syrup\\_18\\_06\\_2020.pdf](https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5eeb5206e8624Letter_Enforcement_Syrup_18_06_2020.pdf)

### I.2.4 Exceeded RDA Values for license issued to products covered under FSS (Food or Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Foods for Special Dietary Use, Foods for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Foods and Novel Foods) Regulations, 2016

A letter was issued dated 11.06.2020 to Central Licensing Authority and all Food Commissioners of State and UTs to carry out enforcement strictly on the products for RDA values exceeding above the limits prescribed by FSSAI, in case of license to products covered under FSS (Food or Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Foods for Special Dietary Use, Foods for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Foods and Novel Foods) Regulations, 2016. The Licensing Authorities to ensure that such products need to comply with RDA limitation. Stringent action may be taken against the defaulters.

More details are available at:

<https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ee715f0cf8c7Letter Compliance RDA License 15 06 2020.pdf>

#### I.2.5 Surveillance on use of stapled tea bags

A letter was issued dated 29.06.2020 to all Food Commissioners of State and UTs to carryout Surveillance on manufacturing andimport of stapled tea bags in their respective areas of jurisdiction. FSSAI earlier allowed extended timeline to 16 FBOs to manufacture tea bags with staple pins upto 31.12.2021 and such tea bags can be sold in the domestic market upto 31.12.2023 only. However, it has been noticed that a number of other FBOs have either not yet sought extension of time for compliance or responded to queries raised by FSSAI with regards to their proposal for migration from stapled tea bags to staple less tea bags. Hence, the same should be carried out and an action taken report may be communicated to the office.

More details are available at:

<https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ef9e27dd3f89Letter Stapled Tea Bags 29 06 2020.pdf>

#### I.2.6 Facilitation, extension and relaxation to FBOs inview of COVID-19

- To facilitate FBOs in COVID situation, FSSAI extended the Grace period for applying for renewal of Licenses or registrations which are expired or expiring in this period up to date 31st July 2020
- Considering the difficulties in COVID situation, FSSAI decided not to penalize FBOs on non-submitting six monthly testing report of food products and maintaining related records as per clause 12 of condition of License in Annexure -3 of Schedule-2 under FSS( Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Regulations, 2011during COVID-19 Pandemic subject to the submission of the reports and such records within two months after lockdown is over.
- In view of COVID-19 situation on request several FBOs and Associations,FSSAI extended the timeline for the compliance of limits of magnesium and calcium as per Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2019 related to the standards of Packaged Drinking Water (other than Mineral Water)till 1st January,2021
- Extended the timeline for compliance with Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Second Regulations, 2019 relating to revision in sub-regulation 2.3.12: Restriction on sale of common salt till 1st January, 2021

- In view of further extension of lockdown in various containment zones due to COVID-19 Situation FSSAI vide order dated 19.06.2020 relaxes the orders related to Compliance, Inspection and Licenses for FBOs of respective areas till 31.07.2020.
- FSSAI extended the timeline for compliance with Food Safety and Standards (Recovery and Distribution of Surplus Food) Regulations, 2019 to 1st January, 2021

More details are available on <https://www.fssai.gov.in/advisories.php>

## **II. Transforming Food Environment**

### **II.1 Third Party Audits & Hygiene Ratings**

#### II.1.1 Extension of date for mandatory Food Safety Audit of Food Businesses under the FSS (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2018

Keeping in view of the current pandemic situation, a letter was issued dated 12.06.2020 stating that the date for mandatory food safety audit of Food Businesses under the FSS (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2018 has been extended till 30th September, 2020. Accordingly, the food businesses may be directed to get such mandatory audits of their premises conducted by the foresaid period

More details are available at:

<https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/06/5ee390ad9f377Letter Date Extension FoodSafetyAudit 12 06 2020.pdf>

#### II.1.2 Eat Right Campuses

The following campuses were awarded last month, June 2020

1. ITC LIMITED, FOODS DIVISION, Malur, Karnataka
2. ITC Limited, Kapurthala, Punjab
3. RMK ENGINEERING COLLEGE, Thiruvallur
4. RMK COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, Thiruvallur
5. DHIRUBHAI AMBANI INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (DA-IICT), Gujarat
6. RMK RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL , Thiruvallur





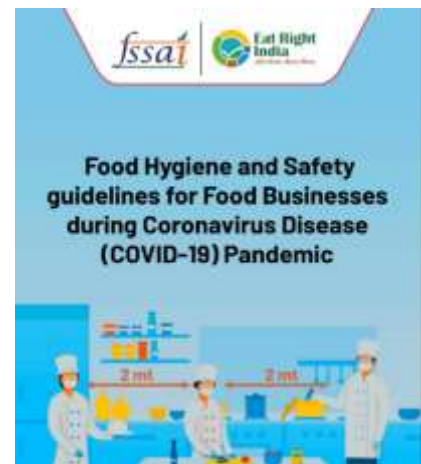
### II.1.3 Eat Right Stations

To ensure hygiene and sanitation under the current pandemic, several Hand Wash stations were installed at Patna Junction station for passengers to comfortably wash their hands with foot pedal operated hand wash and water dispensing mechanism as part of the process under Eat Right Station initiative of Railways in association with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India with support of HUL as an implementation partner with Railways.

## **II.2 Training & Capacity Building**

### II.2.1 Guidance Note for Food Businesses Operators

FSSAI released a revised Guidance Note on “Hygiene and Safety Guidelines for Food Businesses” during a webinar organised on the occasion of the World Food Safety Day. In wake of the current pandemic, this document provides guidance to food businesses, including their personnel involved in handling of food and other employees to prevent spread of COVID-19 in the work environment and any incidental contamination of food/food packages. These practices should be adopted in conjugation with Schedule 4 requirements



### II.2.2. COVID-19 Trainings

To train food businesses, FSSAI has initiated through its flagship FoSTaC program, an online training module for food handlers on the essentials of food safety and hygiene practices during COVID-19. Till date, over 60,000 people are already trained under this program.

### ***III Mass Mobilization***

#### **III.1 Events/ Melas**

##### **Celebrating 2nd World Food Safety Day**

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) celebrated the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Food Safety Day, dated June 07 2020, with the theme “*Food Safety is everyone’s business*”. The celebration was dedicated to all those in the supply chain who have ensured the uninterrupted availability of safe food for everyone during this COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar was attended by dignitaries from the Health Ministry, senior officials from the State Food Safety departments, professionals in food and nutrition, development agencies, food businesses and implementation partners.

Smt. Rita Teaotia, Chairperson, FSSAI inaugurated the session and the welcome address was delivered by Shri Arun Singhal, who has recently been appointed as the new CEO, FSSAI.

##### **The highlights of the event are:**

##### **Key Releases:**

- Results of the second State Food Safety Index. The State Food Safety Index ranks states on five parameters of food safety through a rigorous evaluation process every year. This year, among the larger states, Gujarat was the top ranking state, followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Among the smaller states, Goa came first followed by Manipur and Meghalaya. Among UTs, Chandigarh, Delhi and Andaman Islands secured top ranks.
- e-Handbook on “Eat Right during COVID-19” for citizens. It highlights safe food practices to be followed diligently and tips on health and nutrition.
- An updated detailed guidance note ‘Food Hygiene and Safety Guidelines for Food Businesses during Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic’ was released. This document specifies hygiene and sanitary requirements, responsibility of management and sector specific requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the food supply chain along with a section on ‘management of food establishments on identification of COVID-19 positive cases’.

##### **Keynotes:**

“Food safety is a shared responsibility. The call to action for safe food on this day is: Ensure its safe, Grow it safe, Keep it safe, Eat it safe and Team up for safety.”



Dr. Harsh Vardhan,  
Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare

“Children are powerful agents of change. Teaching children and youth the importance of food safety will not only ensure good health for future generations but also transform our habits today.”



Shri Adhwini Kumar Choubey,  
Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare

“As we are lifting the lockdown, we need to ensure adequate precautions are taken in restaurants and food service and delivery establishments. We must emphasize food safety through social media and other communication platforms.”



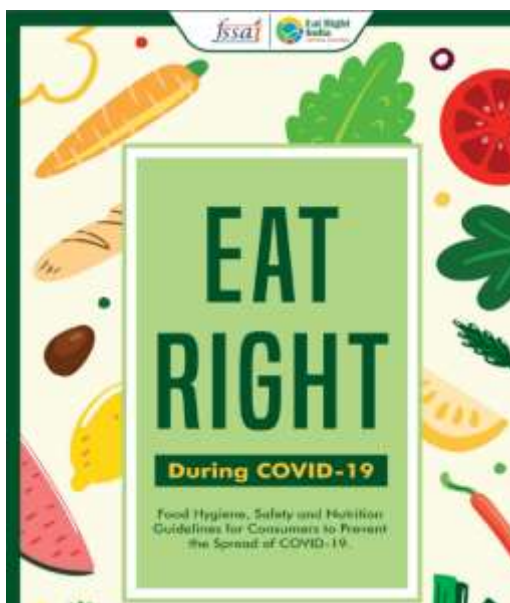
Smt. Preeti Sudan,  
Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The details are at: <https://fssai.gov.in/press-note.php>

## **III.2 Campaigns**

### **III.2.1 Eat Right during COVID-19 – An e-handbook**

FSSAI has recently released a released an e-handbook on “[\*Eat Right During COVID-19: Food Hygiene, Safety and Nutrition Guidelines for Consumers\*](#)” to prevent the Spread of [\*Coronavirus\*](#). It highlights safe food practices to be followed diligently and tips on health.



The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is pleased to present the 'Eat Right During COVID-19' book. This book on food hygiene, safety and nutrition guidelines has been specifically created for consumers to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which has posed a threat to our health and well-being in recent times.

In thirteen chapters, this document highlights the best practices to be followed in the 'new normal of COVID-19' when handling food; from buying to preparing and consuming food. It also includes tips on personal and surrounding hygiene, nutrition tips, SOPs for food service establishments as well as community kitchens. Finally, it includes common myths along with their clarifications.

'Eat Right During COVID-19' has been carefully reviewed and vetted by domain experts in the field of food safety and nutrition. FSSAI would welcome any feedback and suggestions on this publication. It is hoped that this book, through wide dissemination, becomes a useful guide on eating right during these difficult times.

Ms. Rita Teasolia  
Chairperson, FSSAI

Shri Arun Singhal  
CEO, FSSAI

### III.2.2 Awareness in general public through Food Safety Vans

States/ UTs are leveraging the Food Safety Wheels (FSWs) for awareness generation and dissemination of communication collaterals including posters, jingles, expert videos etc during the COVID-19 pandemic



### III.3.3 Awareness drive through social Media:

***“Let’s spread facts, not fear about#COVID19”***

FSSAI is constantly uploading Food Safety related posters and videos both in English and Hindi languages through social media platforms for generating awareness among citizens every month under awareness drive “Let’s spread facts, not fear aboutCOVID19”.

i) *Awareness posters uploaded in month of June, 2020*





**खरीदारी के बाद घर पहुँच कर कुछ बातों का ध्यान रखें -**

Once you reach home after shopping, follow these steps:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
2. Remove your shoes and leave them at the entrance.
3. Change your clothes and wash them separately.
4. Wash your shopping bags and contents thoroughly.
5. Store food items in the refrigerator or freezer immediately.
6. Clean the surfaces you touched in the store with disinfectant.
7. Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.
8. If you have a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, stay home and seek medical advice.

**Safe Shopping Guide during COVID-19**

**कोविड-19 के दौरान सुरक्षित खरीदारी गाइड**

1. Plan your shopping trip in advance.
2. Avoid crowded places and long queues.
3. Wear a face mask and gloves.
4. Maintain a safe distance of at least 2 meters from others.
5. Avoid touching surfaces and people.
6. Use hand sanitizer frequently.
7. Avoid eating and drinking in public places.
8. Return home and isolate yourself if you feel unwell.

**FOOD SAFETY**

**खाद्य सुरक्षा**

1. Wash hands before and after handling food.
2. Use clean water for drinking and cooking.
3. Cook food thoroughly.
4. Store food properly in the refrigerator.
5. Avoid eating raw vegetables and fruits without washing.
6. Avoid eating street food.
7. Avoid eating food from vendors.
8. Avoid eating food from unhygienic sources.

**Stay Safe during (COVID-19)**

**कोविड-19 के दौरान सुरक्षित रहें**

1. Avoid crowded places.
2. Wear a face mask.
3. Maintain a safe distance.
4. Avoid touching surfaces.
5. Use hand sanitizer.
6. Avoid eating and drinking in public places.
7. Return home and isolate yourself if you feel unwell.

**When buying vegetables, choose the ones that are:**

**सब्जियों खरीदते समय कुछ बातों का ध्यान रखें जैसे कि -**

1. Fresh, local and seasonal.
2. Green leafy vegetables that are crisp and fresh.
3. Root and tuber crops that are firm.
4. No visible damage or bruising.
5. No visible signs of rot or mold.
6. No visible signs of insect damage.
7. No visible signs of chemical treatment.
8. No visible signs of artificial ripening.

**Steps to Safe & Healthy Fruits & Vegetables**

1. Wash thoroughly under running water.
2. Peel when possible.
3. Cook thoroughly.
4. Store properly.
5. Consume immediately.

**Steps to Safe & Healthy Fruits & Vegetables**

1. Wash thoroughly under running water.
2. Peel when possible.
3. Cook thoroughly.
4. Store properly.
5. Consume immediately.

**फलों और सब्जियों को साफ रखें**

1. Wash thoroughly under running water.
2. Peel when possible.
3. Cook thoroughly.
4. Store properly.
5. Consume immediately.

**Keeping Fruits and Vegetables Clean**

1. Wash thoroughly under running water.
2. Peel when possible.
3. Cook thoroughly.
4. Store properly.
5. Consume immediately.

**This World Milk Day**

**Vitamin A** Prevents night blindness

**Vitamin D** Supports strong bones

Let us pledge to make Fortified Milk with the +F logo a part of our life.

#OneGlassOfHealth #WorldMilkDay #EnjoyDairy

**World Food Safety Day**

**Keep yourself safe when shopping at markets by ensuring your hands are clean and keeping physical distance (at least 2 metres) from others.**

**Food is not known to transmit COVID-19 and imported food is safe to eat**

**Cook food thoroughly. Separate raw and cooked foods.**

**When buying ready-to-eat food in markets, check that the vendors practice the Five Keys to Safer Food.**



# Issues in Details

## **“FSSAI TO LAUNCH ONE-STOP COMPLIANCE, REGULATORY PLATFORM FOR FOOD COMPANIES FROM JUNE 01”**

By Meenakshi Verma Ambwani | New Delhi | May 29, 2020

As part of efforts to ensure ease of doing business for food companies, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is all set to launch its upgraded cloud-based online compliance platform. The food safety regulator aims to make Food Safety and Compliance System (FoSCoS) as the one-stop point for all its regulatory and compliance engagements with Food Business Operators (FBOs).

While initially the new integrated platform, will enable licensing, registration and filing of annual returns, FSSAI will eventually add a host of other regulatory and compliance functions to the platform. It will also replace the existing Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS).

The launch of FoSCoS is scheduled for June 1. In the first phase, it will be launched in nine States and UTs including Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa, Delhi, Odisha, Chandigarh, Puducherry and Ladakh. By next month, the licensing process in all these States will be done through FoSCoS, as the older licensing platform will be disabled. The new integrated platform will be gradually rolled out across all other States.

FoSCoS will be integrated with all the other online services of FSSAI that include food import clearance system, portal for test results and sample collection from laboratories (INFLONet) and food safety training and certification portal. It will also enable modules for sample management, improvement notices, audit management systems and adjudications in a phased manner.

“A single regulatory platform will act as pan-India integrated response system to any food fraud and ensure an advanced risk-based, data driven regulatory approach,” FSSAI said in a notice to food business operators.

In a move that will eliminate errors and grant licences quicker, the licensing process for food manufactures will be based on a standardised food product list on FoSCoS. The standardised food product list in accordance to various food categories was collated by FSSAI after an extensive mapping exercise. All manufacturers holding valid FSSAI licence must modify their licence in accordance with the standardised product list by December 31, the FSSAI notice said.

Meanwhile, the food safety authority has asked all States and UTs to set up a licence helpdesk to address queries from FBOs on the new online platform. It has been conducting training with food safety officers as well as food companies for a seamless transition to the new system.



## “ARUN SINGHAL APPOINTED FOOD SAFETY REGULATOR CHIEF”

By PTI | Thursday, 30 May, 2020

*Arun Singhal is at present Special Secretary in Health and Family Welfare Department.*

Senior bureaucrat Arun Singhal has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected on Friday by the Centre.

Mr Singhal, a 1987-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, is at present Special Secretary in the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

S Gopalakrishnan, a 1991-batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). He is currently serving as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Rajendra Kumar, who was recently appointed as Director General, Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), will now be Additional Secretary in the IT Ministry in place of Mr Gopalakrishnan, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Bihar-cadre IAS officer C Sridhar, currently serving as Deputy Director in the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the PMO.

Meera Mohanty, Director in the Cabinet Secretariat, has been moved to the PMO in the same designation. Smita Sarangi, Deputy Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, has been transferred to Cabinet Secretariat in the same designation.

Subir Mallick, Additional Financial Adviser and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence (Finance), will continue in the same department at the level of Additional Secretary.

The central government has appointed 16 joint secretaries in its different departments in the reshuffle.

Manish Tiwari has been appointed as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; Alaknanda Dayal will be JS, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare; Pallavi Agarwal has been appointed as Member Secretary, National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture; and Surendra Prasad Yadav will be the Joint Secretary, Department of Defence Production.

Senior bureaucrat Ghanshyam Prasad will be Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power and Himabindu Mudumbai will be Joint Secretary, Department of Revenue, the order said.

V Radha and Ateesh Kumar Singh have been appointed as joint secretaries in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, respectively.

Vijay Kumar Singh has been appointed as Member (Finance), Delhi Development Authority (DDA) under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Anupam Mishra has been appointed as Joint Secretary, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, Vinod Kotwal will be Member Secretary, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), and Vipin Kumar has been named Joint Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy.

Sunil Kumar has been appointed as Joint Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and R Jaya will be Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and Roop Rashi has been appointed as Textile Commissioner, Mumbai under the Ministry of Textiles.



## “FSSAI ISSUES ADVISORY FOR HOTELS, RESTAURANTS”

By Staff Reporter | Saturday, 06 June, 2020

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued advisory for hotels and restaurants in view of the Central Government relaxation that they could be opened from Monday.

District Collector K. Rajamani and FSSAI designated officer K. Tamilselvan held a meeting with representatives of hoteliers' association on Saturday and issued advisories.

Instructions included reduction of seating capacity to 50 % of the existing capacity to enable adequate spacing for physical distancing, compliance of mask for employees, frequent cleaning of restrooms, minimal occupancy of customers in elevators, promotion of digital payment modes, use thermal screening of food delivery agents and promotion of parcel service to reduce crowding of customers.

Hotels and restaurants were also advised to avoid parties and gatherings.

## **“FSSAI SEEKS CLARITY ON IMPORT OF GOLDEN SYRUP TO STOP MISUSE IN HONEY”**

By Ashwani Maindola | Thursday, 04 June, 2020

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued an order seeking clarification from the importers of golden syrup/invert sugar syrup/rice syrup after it received complaints about these syrups being used for production of honey.

The order says that the importers were directed to submit necessary documents at scrutiny stage before clearance including the details of end-users of the imported food item to maintain the regulatory compliance of the rules and regulations made by the FSSAI.

The order says, “To ensure quality of honey and to contain the misuse of imported golden syrup/invert sugar syrup/rice syrup in production of honey, all the importers/food business operators who are importing these food items in India are directed to also submit necessary documents at scrutiny stage, before clearance, to concerned Authorised Officer regarding details of the manufacturer(s) with end use to whom the aforesaid imported food items will be supplied.”

Golden syrup is a yellowish syrup made from evaporated sugarcane juice, used as a sweetener and in baking. Invert sugar syrup and rice syrup have similar composition and used in various food preparations like bakery. However, there were instances of misuse of these syrups in honey production.

According to FSSAI, golden syrup/invert sugar syrup/rice syrup are sometimes being used in production of honey as they are cheap in cost, have similar physical properties and available easily.

The order, meanwhile, directed the Authorised Officers to carry out clearance of these products only after ensuring the necessary documents and fulfilment of other requirements of FSSAI. Also, the officers were asked to submit the details of the cleared imported consignments of these products with the concerned Central Designated Officer to ensure compliance of regulatory requirements under FSS Act.

## **“NEW ONLINE PORTAL TO SIMPLIFY FOOD LICENCING NORMS”**

By Staff Reporter | Wednesday, 03 June, 2020

Panaji: A new online platform has been introduced for food operators to apply for and renew registrations under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has launched a cloud-based, upgraded food safety licencing and compliance online platform called the Food Safety and Compliance System (FoSCos), replacing the Food Licencing and Registration System (FLRS) which was used for applying and renewing licenses and registrations under FSSA.

The new online platform is conceptualised to provide a one-point stop for all engagements with food business operators with the regulatory department for matters relating to licencing, renewals, modification, and inspection, as well as with provisions to file annual returns.

For food operators in the manufacturing business, the system offers a paradigm change in the shift of methodology of licencing.

This is expected to help manufacturers endorse their products as per the list of standardised products under FSSA, in the licence product category

According to the old FLRS system, for a manufacturer of a particular product like “carbonated water”, the FLRS system would ask to endorse a general beverage category to your license. This new system allows endorsement of exact product in case of all standardised products, and in case of non-standards products, manufacturers will have to opt for proprietary foods category.

The existing manufacturers, re-packers and relabelers will have to make the necessary change to their existing licence by logging in to the new system using the existing user credentials, same user Id and password as used in FLRS, and make the necessary endorsement and modification to their existing license for product category before Dec

## “GUJARAT, TN, MAHARASHTRA TOP IN FSSAI FOOD SAFETY INDEX FOR 2019-20”

By PTI | Monday, 08 June, 2020

*Among the smaller states, Goa came first followed by Manipur and Meghalaya. Among Union Territories, Chandigarh, Delhi and Andaman Islands secured top ranks, FSSAI said in a statement.*

Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have topped an index that ranked states ensuring food safety in 2019-20, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said on Sunday. The index ranks states on five parameters of food safety: human resources and institutional data, compliance, food testing facility, training and capacity building besides consumer empowerment.

Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have topped in the list of larger states on the index.

Among the smaller states, Goa came first followed by Manipur and Meghalaya. Among Union Territories, Chandigarh, Delhi and Andaman Islands secured top ranks, FSSAI said in a statement.

This is the second index on food safety, which FSSAI released on the occasion of World Food Safety Day with the theme "Food Safety is everyone's business" that was dedicated to those in the supply chain who have ensured the uninterrupted availability of safe food during this COVID-19 pandemic.

"Food safety is a shared responsibility. The call to action for safe food on this day is: Ensure it's safe, Grow it safe, Keep it safe, Eat it safe and Team up for safety," Health Minister Harshvardhan said in a webinar organised by FSSAI.

Health Secretary Preeti Sudan said the food safety index is an excellent incentive to create a sense of competition among states to improve food safety.

"As we are lifting the lockdown, we need to ensure adequate precautions are taken in restaurants and food service and delivery establishments. We must emphasize food safety through social media and other communication platforms," he added.

On this occasion, FSSAI also released an e-handbook on "Eat Right during COVID-19" for

citizens. It highlights safe food practices to be followed diligently and tips on health and nutrition.

The food regulator has taken a series of steps to facilitate uninterrupted supply of safe food by the food industry during this pandemic.

An updated detailed guidance note 'Food Hygiene and [Safety Guidelines for Food Businesses](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic' was released.

This document specifies hygiene and sanitary requirements, responsibility of management and sector specific requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the food supply chain along with a section on 'management of food establishments on identification of COVID-19 positive cases'.

FSSAI Chairperson Rita Teatia and new CEO Arun Singhal were also present at the webinar.



## **FSSAI TRAINING FOR JHARKHAND STREET FOOD VENDORS”**

By Antara Bose | Monday, 08 June, 2020

Pushpendra Kumar, a fast-food seller in Sakchi, would earn Rs 20,000 a month by selling parathas during the afternoon; but for the past two months, he has been sitting idle with no work and no money in his account to make ends meet.

Thousands of street food vendors who were dependent on their daily businesses are now expecting to reopen their outlets as the National Association of Street vendors of India (NASVI) and Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC), have decided to organize an online safety training to suit the new changes in hygiene standards.

As business is nil and customers will be concerned about hygiene, online training with a certification from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), shall deal with personal and customer safety, food safety and hygiene, and workplace safety and business development in the time of pandemic.

The Jharkhand Street Vendors Union has taken the responsibility to train the street vendors on the Zoom app, which is slated to begin this weekend or the next.

“The FSSAI will have a new set of guidelines because of the pandemic. Hygiene shall be very important but what’s most important is to let these vendors do business as most of them are reeling under financial crisis,” said Pankaj Srivastava, president of Street Food Vendors Union, a member organization of NASVI.

Jharkhand has about 1.5 lakh registered food vendors while cities like Jamshedpur and Ranchi have more than 5000 registered street food vendors each.

The union had made 750 labour cards under the state government so that the beneficiaries could get a one-time Rs 1000 cash transfer, but none of them have received any assistance so far.

Union members say that though there no central or state government guidelines to open food kiosks; they shall personally meet the respective deputy commissioners and apprise

them of the problem.

“We are in debt. Liabilities are too many- school fees of children and medical expenses. If we do not open, we have no future. The central government had announced a Rs 10,000 loan but that’s negligible as compared to the losses we have faced. The government has allowed Shramik trains and even airline services, then why not street food,” said Binod Pandey, a street food vendor in Bistupur.

The unions are now trying to ensure that maximum number of street food vendors can avail this training for better business.

## **“WITH LAUNCH OF FOSCOS, FSSAI ISSUES ORDER REGARDING MODIFICATION OF LICENCES”**

By Ashwani Maindola | Monday, 08 June, 2020

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued an order regarding modification of licences by existing licensed manufacturers upon launch of FoSCoS. Under the new regime, standardised food products will be mapped with the food category system for the purpose of licensing and registration of manufacturers.

Presently while applying for licence in FSSAI's FLRS (Food Licensing and Registration System), the manufacturer applicant types the name of the food product it intends to manufacture in the text box provided. It is now replaced with a selection option for standardised food products with the launch of Food Safety Compliance System or FoSCoS.

The order says, “The change is only for manufacturers including repackers and relabeller of food products. Manufacturers will have to select a standardised product only out of the list provided on the licensing platform. The standardised product shall have its classification as per food category system indicated for convenience. In case, not falling under standardised product, FBO will have to apply under proprietary food, non-specified food or supplements, nutraceuticals, as the case may be. In these cases, the text box approach will continue. Licensing for all FBOs other than manufacturers, such as catering (food services), transport, wholesaler, storage, e- commerce etc. will continue to be on the basis of broad food product categories.”

The order also clarifies that Category 99 is a residual category for licensing purpose for products such as additives/processing aids/enzymes.

“It is proposed to continue the text box approach for category 99 as while some food additives and other substances have standards, there are many for which standards are under development. And at an appropriate time in future, this category may also be considered to be moved to standardised list approach”, reads the order.

Also a new Category 100 is being created only for the purpose of licensing wherein standardised products that do not have a food category system mapped will be listed.

The order says that under the food category 15.0-ready to eat savouries and 16.0 - prepared food there are no standardised food products hence a manufacturer (ex –ready-to-eat packets) need to take Central licence under proprietary food category.

The FSSAI has further clarified in the order that many manufacturers having licences in the wrong food category or having licence for non-standardised products as standardised food products in the previous system will be required to get their licence modified.

In case of existing FBOs holding valid licence for manufacturing of food products, they shall be required to modify their existing licence upon migrating to the new system – FoSCoS, by selecting the products from available list of standardised products. A window for modification of licence, without any modification fee has been provided to such licensed manufacturers for a period up to December 31, 2020, says the order.

## **“ONLY ONE REGULATION FOR FORTIFIED FOOD NOW AS FSSAI OPERATIONALISES NORMS”**

By Ashwani Maindola Wednesday, 10 June, 2020

Fortified food will now be governed under only one regulation taking away the duplicity of regulations being faced earlier.

In this regard, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has operationalised the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additive) Amendment Regulations, 2020, related to standards for fortified atta, maida, iodised salt and iron fortified iodised salt thereby removing the mentioning of fortified food in the said regulations.

According to the FSSAI, this was done to remove the duplicity in the regulations that govern the fortification of food products, as the FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations in 2018 which prescribe and govern the standards for iodised salt, iron fortified iodised salt, fortified atta, and maida.

However, the standards for the same food products were also prescribed in the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product and Food Additive Regulations) 2011.

“To avoid duplication, a proposal for omission of these standards from the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product and Food Additive) Regulations was drafted and notified in April 2019. And, the final notification of these regulations will take more time. So, to avoid legal issues, it has been decided to operationalise the proposed notification prescribing the omission of clauses relating to standards for fortified atta, maida and salt from the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product and Food Additive Regulations) 2011,” said the order by FSSAI.

The order will come into force with immediate effect till the issuance of final notification in this regard.

According to a senior official with the FSSAI, several representations were received by the apex food regulator saying that due to duplication of standards they are facing legal action by state food safety authority as the two regulations are in variance with each other in respect of the level of fortification specified.

Now only the FSS (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018, and the fortification limits prescribed under these regulations will govern the food products falling under the fortified category.





## **“FOOD LICENSING AND REGN RENEWAL EXTENDED TO JULY 31 IN VIEW OF PANDEMIC”**

Saturday, 27 June, 2020

By Ashwani Maindola, New Delhi

Extending the relief to FBOs (Food Business Operators) during the Covid-19 pandemic, which forced lockdown upon the country, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has pushed further the grace period for applying for renewal of licence or registration expired or expiring from March 22 to July 31, 2020.

The extension is given until July 31 and the FBOs can renew their licence or registration without thinking of a penalty in this period. Previously the grace period was given until June 30 for FBOs to renew their licences/registration which have expired or were about to expire during the period - March 22 to June 30.

The FSSAI, in this regard, issued an order stating that after reviewing the situation it has been decided to extend the grace period till July 31 for applying for renewal of licences/registration for those FBOs whose licences/registration are expiring in the period until July 31.

“All such FBOs are allowed to apply for renewal of their licences/registration till July 31, 2020, without any late fee as per clause 2.1.7(4) of the FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations 2011. The order will apply prospectively,” the order says while adding that no claim of refund of late fee paid of an already applied renewal application shall be admissible while the existing FSSAI licence/registration shall be deemed valid in the interim.

The FSSAI, in a statement, has said that it was engaged with state food safety departments, communicating the emerging priorities in the food safety landscape. The priorities communicated include expediting work related to licensing on the online portal; establish licensing helpline in each state with a dedicated number and email id; create robust complaint handling mechanism; conduct only essential inspections and so on. The need for facilitating food business has been strongly emphasised by FSSAI to the state food authorities.

## **“FSSAI SET TO LAUNCH FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE PLATFORM”**

Saturday, 27 Jun 2020

By Abhishek Muralidharan

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is set to launch a cloud-based food safety compliance platform named Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS).

The new launch will replace the organisation's online licensing platform Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS), which according to FSSAI, was the sole licensing ecosystem with a pan India coverage with over 70 lakhs licences and registrations issued till date and over 35 lakhs licensees actively transacting on it. FoSCoS is conceptualised to boost engagements Food Business Operators' (FBO) with the department for any regulatory compliance transaction. The system has been integrated with FoSCoRIS mobile application and will soon be integrated with other FSSAI's platforms such as INFOLNet, FoSTaC, FICS, FPVIS, and so on.

In addition, sample management, improvement notices, adjudications, audit management systems and modules will be included to the system in a phased manner, said FSSAI. Moreover, GPS location tagging and RFIDs will also be utilised to ensure transparent and accountable extension services such as inspections and sampling.

Furthermore, the system will be integrated with other platforms of the Government of India such as GST, PAN, MCA, and so on, to ensure 360-degree profiling and validation of businesses. "A single regulatory platform will enable a pan-India integrated response system to any food fraud and ensure an advanced risk-based, data-driven regulatory approach," said a press note shared with WhatPackaging?.

FoSCoS is set to be launched in phases and as an initial offering, it will provide licensing, registration, inspection and annual return modules. States and union territories (UT) such as TamilNadu, Gujarat, Goa, Delhi, Odisha, Manipur, Chandigarh, Puducherry and Ladakh have been selected for the first launch phase.

"Once FoSCoS is launched in a State or UT, all licenses and registrations pertaining to them will be available in it and the FLRS data shall be disabled for taking any action. However, for these introductory days, users can access their issued licenses and registrations or applications under processing on FLRS for viewing purposes only," the press note added.

FSSAI has directed States and UTs for capacity building among the officers and FBO to ensure a smooth transition from FLRS to FoSCoS. Over the past three months, the organisation has conducted several workshops on the key features of the system.



## **“FBOS TOLD TO FINISH 6 MONTHLY TESTING OF FOODS IN 2 MONTHS POST-LOCKDOWN”**

Tuesday, 30 June 2020

By Ashwani Maindola, New Delhi

The apex food regulator of the country, FSSAI, has issued a direction for submission of the six-monthly testing report of food products due to the prevailing situation caused by Covid-19 pandemic. They have been directed to complete the six monthly testing within two months post-lockdown period is over.

FSSAI's order states, "Considering the difficulties faced by food business operators, in six monthly testing of food products and maintenance of records, it has been decided that FBOs shall not be penalised if they have not maintained such record during the lockdown period".

The order, however, added that all FBOs have to ensure the said compliance within two months after lockdown is over. The direction also urged the commissioners of food safety across the country to take note of this direction and ensure compliance.


According to a senior official with the FSSAI, various FBOs individually and associations have given representation seeking relaxation in the compliance with the filing of the six monthly testing report of food products as required under Clause 12 of the conditions of license in Annexure 3, Schedule 2 of the FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Regulations, 2011.

Previously in April, the apex food regulator had decided to extend the timeline for submission of annual returns of FBOs mandated under the FSS Act until July 2020. The annual returns to be submitted to the FSSAI hold information like volume of the product, sale price per unit and exported quantity.

Also the apex food regulator has decided to extend the date for mandatory food safety audit of food businesses under the FSS (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2018. FSSAI, in an order, had stated that the food businesses holding Central licences and falling under high risk category can now complete the mandatory audit by Sept 30, 2020.

# Press Releases

[Press Release dated 07th June 2020 related to Goa, Gujarat and Chandigarh lead in food safety: Rankings declared on World Food Safety Day \[Updated on:07-06-2020\]](#)  [0.85 MB]

[Press Release dated 01st June 2020 related to FSSAI launched Food Safety Compliance System \(FoSCoS\) \[Updated on:01-06-2020\]](#)  [0.64 MB]