

Review of Standards of food products and additives under Food Safety and Standards(FPS&FA), Regulations, 2011

The standards for food products and additives have been prescribed in the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. These standards are substantially the same as were notified under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955 which got repealed on 5th August, 2011. The standards have evolved over a period of time on the basis of contemporary data, scientific development and various other factors impinging on safety of the products and health of the consumer. Amendments have been accordingly issued at various points in time to the PFA Rules and the last such amendment was draft notified to vide GSR 603(E), which got subsumed in the final FSS Regulations. Many of the standards have, however, not been reviewed for a long time. The demand have been received from various stakeholders from time to time to review these standards taking into account the latest developments in food science, food consumption pattern, new food products and additives, new specifications , changes in the processing technology leading to changed specifications, advancements in food analytical methods, identification of new risks or other regulatory options. The section 16(3) (m) of the FSS Act enjoins upon the FSSAI to promote consistency between international technical standards and domestic food standards while ensuring that the level of protection adopted in the country is not reduced.

2. FSSAI has finalised a procedure for reviewing the existing standards. The suggestions will be invited from all the stakeholders which will then be examined by specially constituted expert committees wherever required and thereafter placed before the concerned Scientific Panel, Scientific Committee and the Food Authority for approval before publishing the draft for mandatory public consultation with the prior approval of the Government.

3. FSSAI has decided to invite comments and suggestions for the modification of existing, or inclusion of new standards of food products or additives, from consumers/consumer organizations, government public sector institutions/organizations, food industry, experts in food science and technology, scientific institutions, research and food analysis labs, medical practitioners, public health experts, Universities, auditing institutions or any other stakeholder for amendment of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

4. All comments and suggestions may be submitted in writing or through e-mail in the following format.

1. Name of the Food and Additives.
2. Reference in the Regulations
3. Proposed suggestions.
4. Scientific Justification.
5. Copy of research articles in support of Scientific Justification/ reference of authentic internet link.(URL).
6. Remarks.

The ‘subject’ of the e-mail or ‘subject’ of the letter conveying comments/suggestions should clearly mention “Comments/suggestions for inclusion of new standards/modifications of existing standards /deletion of existing standards of (name of food product or additive)..... (mention reference number in the FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011) with reference to the FSSAI advertisement No.....”. Please strike out whichever is not applicable.

All suggestions should be sent to the following address, latest by 20th April, 2012.

1. E.mail: stdsreview@fssai.gov.in
2. Postal address:
Standards Review Cell,
Food safety and Standards Authority of India
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road,
New Delhi, 110002.

For any clarification please contact: P.Karthikeyan,
Ph: 011-23237419