Food Safety - a priority

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

Who we are?
What we do?
Why we matter?

Committed to ensuring that India’s food is safe

Surakshit Aahar, Swasthya ka Aadhar

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
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Who we are?

FSSAI has been created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for FSSAI. The Chairperson and the Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) are appointed by Government of India. The Authority’s headquarters is located at FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110 002. The offices of the Authority are located across India in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Guwahati, Lucknow and Chandigarh.

Salient Features of the Act

- Movement from multi-level and multi-department control to a single line of command
- FSSAI as a single reference point for all matters relating to Food Safety and Standards, Regulations and Enforcement
- Integrated response to strategic issues like Novel foods, Health Foods, Nutraceuticals, GM foods, international trade etc.
- Decentralisation of licensing for manufacture of food products
- Achieve high degree of consumer confidence in quality & safety of food
- Enforcement of the legislation by the State Governments/UTs through the State Commissioner for Food Safety, his officers and Panchayati Raj/Municipal bodies
- Emphasis on gradual shift from regulatory regime to self compliance through food safety management system

What we do?

India’s food regulatory system

Standards setting
FSSAI-Mandatory
BIS,DMI-Voluntary

Policy
The forum (FSSAI)
FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations

Enforcement & Surveillance
State/UT governments

Vision:
To create a food safety regulatory and monitoring system built on stakeholder participation, which encourages self compliance and enables informed decision making to secure safe and nutritious food for every citizen.

Mission:
To achieve excellence in the formulation of food safety standards based on modern science and to regulate the food sector in a responsive, efficient and effective manner.
- Consistency between domestic and international food policy measures without reducing safeguards to public health and consumer protection
- Adequate information dissemination on food to enable consumer to make informed choices
- Compounding and Adjudication of cases – to reduce Court’s workload and expedite the disposal of cases
- Graded penalty depending upon the gravity of offences

**How it integrates?**

![Diagram showing the integration of various food regulations](image)

**Regulatory Mechanism**

- **Food Authority and the State Food Safety Authority**
- **Central Advisory Committee**
  - Close cooperation and coordination between Centre, States and other Stakeholders in the field of food
- **Scientific Committee**
  - Consists of heads of Scientific Panels & 6 Scientific Experts. They will provide the scientific opinion on multi sectoral, cross-cutting issues
- **Scientific Panels**
  - 16 Scientific Panels on Food Additives, Pesticide Residues, GM Food, Biological Hazard, Labelling, Functional Food, Method of sampling, Contaminants, Fish & Fisheries, Milk & Milk Products, Meat & Meat Products (including Poultry), Cereals, Pulsed & Legume and their products (including Bakery), Fruits & Vegetables and their products (including Dried Fruits and Nuts Salt, Spices and Condiments), Oils & Fats, Sweets, Confectionery, Sweeteners Sugar & Honey, and Water (including flavoured water) & Beverages (alcoholic, non-alcoholic)
Why we matter?

The food safety regulator’s primary responsibility is to protect the consumer by ensuring compliance with food safety laws and regulations, given that the public’s well-being is the ultimate objective of a national food safety system. The challenge for food regulators is to maintain a food regulatory system that delivers safe food for the population, enables consumers to make informed choices and also maintains public confidence in the food regulations. Public confidence in the food regulations will depend, firstly, on evidence that there is a low level of risk and, secondly, on assurance that adequate systems are in place to monitor and analyse food, and to respond when situations of potential harm occur.

It’s a full time job identifying and detecting these hazards, helping to reduce their presence and meet increasing strict guidelines. Providing evidence (risk assessment) that there is a low level of risk requires a method of analysing food risks that is evidence-based and transparent, and results in effective management strategies (risk management) which can be communicated clearly to consumers (risk communication). Additional surveillance of suppliers through auditing, rigorous testing and product inspection are vital techniques to running a transparent food supply system. These steps can help to build a comprehensive traceability system, support due diligence and ensure suppliers and products are properly certified.

FSSAI has been mandated by the FSS Act, 2006 for performing the following functions

- Framing of Regulations to lay down the Standards and guidelines in relation to articles of food and specifying appropriate system of enforcing various standards thus notified
- Laying down mechanisms and guidelines for accreditation of certification bodies engaged in certification of food safety management system for food businesses
- Laying down procedure and guidelines for accreditation of laboratories and notification of the accredited laboratories
- To provide scientific advice and technical support to Central Government and State Governments in the matters of framing the policy and rules in areas which have a direct or indirect bearing of food safety and nutrition
- Collect and collate data regarding food consumption, incidence and prevalence of biological risk, contaminants in food, residues of various, contaminants in foods products, identification of emerging risks and introduction of rapid alert system
- Creating an information network across the country so that the public, consumers, Panchayats etc receive rapid, reliable and objective information about food safety and issues of concern
- Provide training programmes for persons who are involved or intend to get involved in food businesses
- Contribute to the development of international technical standards for food, sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards
- Promote general awareness about food safety and food standards