

No. 15-05/GA/2014-15-FSSAI (Pt.I)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(General Administration Division)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002.

The 06 February, 2015

SUBJECT:- Minutes of the 15th Authority Meeting held on 20th August, 2014

While adopting the minutes of the 15th Meeting of the Food Authority held on 20th August, 2014 in its 16th Meeting held on 16th January, 2015, attention was drawn to Agenda No. 4 on Categorization of 'Caramel' as a synthetic colour by Ms. Meetu Kapoor, Member, stating that the point raised by her regarding treating 'Caramel' as a synthetic colour had not been reflected in the Minutes of 15th Meeting of the Food Authority. It was also noted that the name of Shri Salim Veljee, Food Safety Commissioner Goa had not been mentioned inadvertently in the list of participants in the minutes of 15th Meeting of the Authority even though he had attended the said meeting. The minutes of the 15th Meeting of the Food Authority were adopted along with the above two observations and confirmed.

(Rakesh Kulshrestha)
Joint Director (Management)

Enclosure:
Minutes of 15th Meeting of the Food Authority

**Minutes of the 15th meeting of the Food Authority held on August 20, 2014 at
1100 hrs at FDA Bhavan, New Delhi**

The fifteenth meeting of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was held on August 20, 2014 at 1100 hrs. at FDA Bhavan, Kotla Road, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri K. Chandramouli, Chairperson, FSSAI. The list of participants present in the meeting is as per **Annexure I**. Leave of absence was granted to the members who could not attend.

Chairperson welcomed the members of the Authority to the meeting and after a brief round of introduction the meeting began. He recalled that the last Authority meeting was held on June 20, 2014 and emphasized that it is important for the Authority to meet on a regular basis and at least once in an quarter so that the large number of standards that are getting harmonised are approved by the Authority for standard setting. Further, he also appreciated and thanked the Authority members in playing an important role in achieving the huge challenge of standards setting. Standards need to be evolved so that it is easier for the enforcement agencies to implement them.

Chairperson, FSSAI drew attention of all the Authority members towards the retirement of CEO, FSSAI next month and on behalf of the Authority, expressed extreme gratitude and appreciation to the contribution of the CEO to the Authority work. He further complimented him for streamlining the processes and setting of the systems in FSSAI office. Thereafter, he requested CEO, FSSAI to conduct the proceedings of the meeting.

Item No. I: Disclosure of interest by members

All the members present during the meeting signed the "Specific Declaration of Interest" in respect of the agenda items to be considered in the meeting, before the start of the proceedings.

Item No. II: Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting held on 20th June, 2014

The Authority adopted the minutes of the fourteenth meeting of the Food Authority held on 20th June, 2014, after amending the minutes with respect to the supplementary agenda no. 1 related to "Use of Lecithin and Sodium stearoyl-2- lactylate in biscuits" as below:

"The Food Authority considered and approved the recommendation of the Scientific Committee and its subsequent draft amendment notification w.r.t. the use of Lecithin in biscuits".

Item No. III: Action Taken Report – 14th Authority Meeting

The members of the Authority were informed about the action taken on the respective agenda items of the 14th Authority meeting held on 20th June, 2014. Representative from AIFPA complimented the FSSAI officers for this effort and also requested if the draft FSSAI manuals on method of analysis of food could be placed on website once again for stakeholder comments. It was informed that these manuals had earlier also been placed on FSSAI website and the final manuals after considering the comments were placed in the last Authority meeting for approval. However, on the request of the Authority member it was decided to place the manuals on FSSAI website again for 15 days for seeking comments and further finalization and adoption of FSSAI manuals on method of analysis. Also, representative from AIFPA suggested the ways to hasten the procedure of draft & final notifications, in response to which Chairperson, FSSAI mentioned that the Authority has been following up continuously with the Ministry on this aspect and an amendment in the FSS Act to hasten the notification procedure has already been proposed to the Ministry. The role of Ministry of Law in the vetting of new food safety and standards regulations was appreciated. The representative of the Ministry assured full support in expediting the vetting process.

It was also noted that comments from CII were also received on the draft microbiological standards for fruits and vegetables.

Item No. IV: Chief Executive Officer's report

CEO, FSSAI welcomed all the distinguished members of the Authority and thanked them for their cooperation in Authority meetings. He then gave a brief overview of the activities undertaken during the period since the last Authority meeting with respect to: enforcement activities including the number of Central licenses and State registration/licenses issued by the States; surveillance activities; training and Capacity Building; Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels meetings and the progress in work on the Standard Setting; harmonization of Standards with Codex; participation in Codex activities and IEC activities.

CEO also drew attention of all the members towards the stay given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on the Hon'ble High Court, Bombay judgements regarding the FSSAI Advisory on product approval in the M/S Vital Nutraceuticals Pvt Ltd. He also informed that as a consequence of the stay granted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the product approval process has become functional again. It was informed that the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement would be placed on FSSAI website for the information of the stakeholders.

It was also informed that a presentation on the On-line Product Approval System was made before the Industry representatives by FSSAI to acquaint them with the features of on-line application.

After the presentation of the report by CEO, the discussion on following agenda items began:

Agenda Items

1. Notifications issued for information- Extending time line upto 4th February, 2015 for the Food Business Operators seeking conversion/renewal of existing license/registration

The Food Authority noted the notification issued w.r.t. extending time line up to 4th February, 2015 for the Food Business Operators seeking conversion/renewal of existing license/registration which was placed for information. It was informed by CEO that there is wide variation in the performance of the various States. Some States have not even started the work of licensing and registration in earnest whereas other State/UT governments are nearing completion of this work. The conversion in the case of Central FBO's is almost complete but the real challenge is for registration cases by the State/UT governments.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 11th Central Advisory Committee (CAC) held on 7th March, 2014.

The Food Authority considered the minutes of 11th CAC meeting held on 7th March, 2014, which was put up only for information.

One of the Authority members suggested to conduct the Authority meeting in each State for greater sensitization about the FSS act and the role of Authority. In response to this Chairperson, FSSAI stressed on the fact that this suggestion could be considered to be implemented in due course later but requested the Authority members to provide their valuable comments after reviewing the CAC meeting minutes, which could then be taken up for consideration.

3. Approval of use of Steviol Glycoside as a non-nutritive sweetener in various food

The Food Authority considered the recommendations made by Scientific Committee and approved the Use of Steviol Glycoside as a non-nutritive sweetener in the following eleven products as per Codex:-

Food Category	Maximum level (mg/kg) (Steviol equivalents) (Based on JECFA ADI of 0-4mg/kg bw as per codex)
1. Dairy Based drinks flavoured	200
2. Dairy based desserts (ice cream, frozen desserts, cream toppings)	330
3. Yoghurt	200

4. Fruit nectars	200
5. Non carbonated water based beverages (non-alcoholic)	200
6. Ice Lollies / Edible Ice	270
7. Jams, jellies, marmalades.	360
8. Ready to eat cereals	350
9. Carbonated water	200
10. Soft Drink Concentrate	200*
11. Chewing gum	3500

* In the final product after reconstitution.

(ii) The Food Authority also approved the use of Steviol Glycoside w.r.t chewing gum (maximum level 3500mg/kg) and as a Table Top Sweetener in tablet, liquid and powder forms which may contain 7 mg as Steviol equivalent per 100 mg with carrier/filler.

4. Agenda on categorization of caramel as synthetic colour

The Food Authority considered and approved the recommendations made by Scientific Committee on categorization of caramel as synthetic colour and the proposal of amendment to the regulation as well as the provisions in Appendix A to the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food additives) Regulations, 2011 . However, the member of the Authority representing AIFPA was of the view that caramel is considered to be a natural colour as the process of caramalization did not include any synthetic process. The Authority felt that considerable time had elapsed since this item was approved by the Authority in 2012 and extensive discussions had taken place at the level of the Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee. The current proposal on not categorising it as a natural colour was a result of the discussions in the Scientific Committee. The Authority approved the proposal. However, the member representing AIFPA requested that her reservations on the subject may be noted in the minutes.

5. Approval of Accounts of the Authority for the Financial Year 2013-14

The Food Authority considered and approved the Accounts of the Authority for the Financial Year 2013-14.

6. Approval of fixing of standards for melamine in milk and milk products

The Food Authority considered and approved the recommendations made by Scientific Committee for fixing Maximum Levels of melamine in milk and milk products as 1 ppm in powdered infant formula, 2.5 ppm in food (other than infant formula) and 0.15 ppm in liquid infant formula (ready to consume).

Supplementary Agendas

Supplementary Agenda item 1. Dairy Whitener

The Food Authority considered the Supplementary Agenda item on Dairy Whitener and, considering the comments received with respect to ash content, total sugars and the additives, it was decided to constitute the following four member sub-committee to examine these issues:

- I. Dr. A K Srivastava, NDRI –Chair
- II. Ms Meetu Kapoor, CII-Member
- III. Ms. Shreya Pandey, AIFPA –Member
- IV. One expert from NDRI to be nominated by Dr. A K Srivastava


This sub-committee would provide comments related to this agenda item for further consideration by the Task Force Group for Milk & Milk Product in its forthcoming meeting.

Supplementary Agenda item 2. Fortification of Milk

The Food Authority considered the recommendations made by Scientific Committee for Fortification of Milk with Vitamin A and D. However, few Authority members had certain comments to which Chairperson, FSSAI asked them to send their comments to the Authority. After extensive discussion on the subject, it was decided to refer the Agenda item back to the Task Force Group for Milk & Milk Product to find out a solution that balances science with the practical implementation. Further, Director, NDRI stated that milk is the best source for iron fortification. He was requested to submit a scientific note on the same to the Authority, which can be considered by the Task Force.

One of the Authority members brought to the notice of the Authority members that the Expert Group for Oils & Fats has not met for a very long time and requested to expedite action on the same. It was informed that the Expert Group for Oils & Fats is being re-constituted and the meeting would be convened thereafter.

In the end Chairperson, FSSAI thanked all the Authority members for actively participating in the meeting and also thanked CEO, FSSAI for his sincere contribution to the Authority and wished him luck for all his future endeavours.


Chairperson
27/8/14

Chief Executive Officer

List of participants

Members of the Authority

1. Shri K. Chandramouli, Chairperson, FSSAI
2. Shri D.K. Samantaray, Member Secretary
3. Shri. RK Jain, AS & DG (GHS), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi.
4. Dr. Reeta Vashishta, JS & LC, Ministry of Law & Justice, New Delhi.
5. Dr. G. S. Toteja, Director, Desert Medicine Research Centre (DMRC), New Pali Road, ICMR Campus II, TAI, 3 Red Cross Road, New Delhi.
6. Dr. AK Srivastava, Director, National Dairy Research Institute, ICAR, Karnal, Haryana-132001
7. Dr. (Ms.) Lalitha Ramakrishna Gowda, Chief Scientist, Department of Protein Chemistry and Technology, CSIR, Mysore, Karnataka.
8. Shri Rameshwer Sharma, Director, Health Safety and Regulation, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
9. Dr. Surekha Chopra, OSD, DHSR, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
10. Shri K. S. Rana, Designated Officer, Chandigarh
11. Dr. AR Sharma, CMD, M/s Ricelaa Health Foods Ltd. Village Manwala, Saron Road, Dhuri, Sangrur, Punjab.
12. Shri Vasudev K Thakkar, President, 'V' Care Right & Duty NGO. V. Care House Opp. Keval Farm, Karodia Road, Post-Bajwa, Vadodra, Gujarat.
13. Ms Shreya Pandey, All India Food Processors' Association, 206, Aurobindo Place Market, Hauz Khas, New Delhi.
14. Ms. Meetu Kapur, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), India Habitat Centre, Core 4A, Ground Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
15. Shri Thanglura, Mizoram Consumers' Union, Lalat Chamber, Temple Square, Tuikual South, Aizawl, Mizoram.
16. Shri V. Balasubramaniam, General Secretary, Prawn Farmer Federation of India, 108/1, Rainbow Drive Layout, Sarjapur Road, Near – WIPRO, Corporate office, Bangalore.
17. Shri Abukalam, Madina Munavara Coffee Estate, Jayapura Koppa Taluk Chikmagalur, Karnataka.

Officers of FSSAI

1. Shri S. Dave, Advisor, FSSAI
2. Ms. Vinod Kotwal, Director (Codex), FSSAI
3. Dr. Pradeep Chakraborty, HOD, FSSAI
4. Dr. Bimal Kumar Dubey, Director (Enforcement & Surveillance), FSSAI
5. Dr. Meenakshi Singh, Scientist (Standards), FSSAI
6. Dr. Sandhya Kabra, Director (QA), FSSAI
7. Shri Rakesh Kulshrestha, JD(M), FSSAI
8. Shri Anil Mehta, DO(Northern Region), FSSAI
9. Shri BG Pandian, AD (Imports), FSSAI
10. Shri P Karthikeyan, AD (Regulations), FSSAI