

F. No. 6/Harmonize/Adv./FSSAI  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India  
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road,  
New Delhi - 110 002

**HARMONISATION OF INDIA'S FOOD STANDARDS WITH CODEX  
STANDARDS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES**

FSSAI was established under Section 4 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 with the mandate of 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 Act aims at food safety as a national movement. To meet this objective, it is necessary that FSSAI follows an inclusive approach by utilising the wisdom of all stakeholders in the country, that all relevant issues are discussed through a transparent consultative process and conflicting opinions reconciled on the basis of scientific evidence.

One of the immediate tasks at hand seems to be to review our food safety standards situation. Currently, several standards in Food Safety & Standards Regulations, 2011 have been drawn from provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act. However, there has been an on-going demand for review of these standards taking into account the latest development in food science across the globe, food consumption pattern, new specifications, presence of new contaminants and toxins as well as use of new food additives and ingredients required by the producers and manufacturers in food business. We also need to consider development of new standards and texts, where necessary while taking cognizance of the developments in an environment of open market in India. Needless to say that the WTO encourages harmonization of national food regulatory standards, guidelines and best practices needs with those of the Codex and provide an equal opportunity to all stakeholders in food business.

To address the above, FSSAI has framed a strategy for taking up this work in a time bound manner. A copy of this strategy paper for harmonization is annexed with this letter (please see **Annexure – I**). You might observe from this paper that this is a massive exercise, and would require participation of all relevant experts in the country be they in the field of food regulatory affairs, scientific research, food and nutrition, food technology, policy affairs, academia, etc. It is evident that the process of harmonization cannot be completed with the active contribution and co-operation of all relevant experts in the country. They would, therefore, have to be identified on the basis of their interest in contributing and experience in the subject matter as they would utilize the available scientific and regulatory information for the expected outcome.

To facilitate the process, it is necessary to identify the current areas and volume of work involved explaining the strategy, scope of work, guidelines for working groups, timelines, format and procedure for forwarding nominations, selection criteria, etc. Detailed documents have been prepared and are shown as several icons contained in **Annexure – II** (Guidance Document on Vertical Standards). These icons are numbered as *Attachments 1 to 12* and can be downloaded from the FSSAI website (fssai.gov.in).

FSSAI invites interested individuals to participate in this harmonization/standardization process. We suggest that interested experts may please study the **Annexure – III** (Guidance to the Nominees), which explains the contribution involved in the entire process. This will enable one to take a decision on the role that he/she would like to play in India's food standards development process. Those committed to contribute to this work are invited to forward their nominations to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), 3rd Floor, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110 002, preferably, by e.mail to a specially created ID: [fssaiharmonisation@gmail.com](mailto:fssaiharmonisation@gmail.com) by **March 20, 2013** in **Annexure – IV** (Nomination Form).

FSSAI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the nominations at any stage of the process without assigning any reason and no claim/dispute in this respect shall be admissible.

New Delhi  
February 18, 2013

Sd/-  
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Advisor