

Food Safety Bulletin

Khaitan & Co | Half Yearly Bulletin | Issue 1 (2023)

Delhi | Mumbai | Kolkata | Bangalore | Chennai | Singapore

1. FSSAI relaxes requirements for AGMARK certification for imported food products

Vide an advisory dated 18 August 2022, the FSSAI had issued a clarification regarding the requirement of AGMARK certification (letter no 1– 1800/ FSSAI /Imports 2019 dated 7 July 2020) in case of imported food products. The Advisory states that the requirement of AGMARK certification for imported food consignments is to be kept in abeyance until further orders.

2. FSSAI Reconsiders Specified Limits of Mixed Millet Flour, Jowar Flour etc.

FSSAI had issued a <u>notification dated 27 July</u> 2022, and had *inter alia* i) kept in abeyance the enforcement of the standards of "alcoholic acidity" with respect to Bajra Flour (Pearl Millet Flour), Jowar Flour (Sorghum Flour), Multigrain flour (atta), Mixed millet flour; "Total Dietary Fibre" with respect to Mixed Millet Flour till 31 December 2022; ii) revised the maximum limit of moisture content in Mixed Millet Flour from 11% to 13% under Section 18(2)(d) of the FSS Act.

3. FSSAI makes it mandatory for certain imported food items to be accompanied by a health certificate

By way of an <u>Order dated 03 August 2022</u>, the FSSAI had made it mandatory for imported food items falling under the category of milk and Milk products; Pork and Pork products; Fish and Fish products to be accompanied by a Health Certificate (to be issued by a competent authority of the exporting country) as per the prescribed format. This requirement was made effective from 01 November 2022.

4. Migration of State licenses of nutraceuticals

Vide an advisory dated 08 August 2022, the FSSAI had taken note of the fact that in cases where FBOs are requesting modifications of their FSSAI license (for nutraceutical products) for migration from State Licenses to Central Licenses, the licensing authorities are

scrutinizing the products that have already been licensed and that this process is causing inordinate delays.

Accordingly, the Central Licensing Authorities have been advised not to scrutinize/re-examine products that are already licensed unless there is a safety issue

5. FSSAI modifies the process for the application of non-specified food ingredients

Vide a <u>Notice dated 31 August 2022</u>, the FSSAI had issued directions that all applications under FSS (Approval for Nonspecified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017 shall be made on the ePAAS portal from 01 October 2022.

Sampling and analysis of imported food articles with microbial testing requirements

6. Vide an Order dated 02 August 2022, the FSSAI issued directions that imported food articles that are to be tested for microbial parameters and where the character of such article is to be retained are required to be sampled in aseptic conditions and that the testing laboratories shall ensure that the sample is received by them in aseptic conditions are not met, testing cannot be proceeded with. Further clarifications with respect to testing have been issued vide clarification dated 16 August 2022.

FSSAI notifies the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) First Amendment Regulations, 2022

The FSSAI has through a <u>Gazette Notification</u> dated 31 August 2022, introduced the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) First Amendment Regulations, 2022, which shall come into effect on 01 April 2023. Vide the aforementioned amendment, the FSSAI has brought food items for infant nutrition under BIS standards.

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8. FSSAI notifies the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Amendment Regulations, 2022

The FSSAI has through a <u>Gazette Notification</u> dated 30 August 2022 introduced the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Amendment Regulations, 2022. Vide the amendment, the FSSAI has added Antimony and Phthalic acid, bis (2- ethylhexyl) ester (DEHP) to Table 1 under Regulation 4, which provides for specific migration limits of substances from plastic materials intended to be in contact with articles of food

9. FSSAI notifies the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) amendment Regulations, 2021

> The FSSAI has through a <u>Gazette Notification</u> <u>dated 30 August 2022</u> introduced the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) First Amendment Regulations, 2022.

> The amendment modifies several other food safety regulations and specifies technical parameters for infant nutrition. As per the notification, the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) First Amendment Regulations came into force on 01 October 2022.

10. FSSAI notifies the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Amendment Regulations, 2022

The FSSAI has through a <u>Gazette Notification</u> <u>dated 30 August 2022</u> introduced the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Amendment Regulations, 2022.

The amendment specifies the technical specifications that can be advertised/claimed with respect to several types of edible oils.

The Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Amendment Regulations, 2022 shall come into force on 01 March 2023.

11. FSSAI issues an updated list of Accredited Laboratories

Vide a <u>notification dated 05 August 2022</u>, the FSSAI provided an updated list of FSSAI recognized Food Testing Laboratories.

 FSSAI extends the enrolment of 22 Non-Food Production (NFP) Units for the collection of used cooking oil from FBOs

Vide a <u>notification dated 23 August 2022</u>, the FSSAI had extended the enrolment of 23 Non-Food Production Units for Collection of Used Cooking Oil from FBOs till 30 July 2023 or till a registration mechanism is devised. 1. FSSAI Amends the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on sales) Regulations, 2011 with respect to edible oil

> The FSSAI had through a <u>Gazette Notification</u> dated 05 September 2022, notified the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on sales) Second Amendment Regulations, 2022 to further amend the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on sales) Regulations, 2011.

> Vide the amendment, the FSSAI has substituted the words "Multi-source Edible Vegetable Oil", wherever they occur, for the words "Multisource edible oil" in clause (11), sub-regulation 2.3.14 of Regulation 2.3 relating to "Prohibition and Restriction on sale of certain products" in the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on sales) Regulations, 2011.

The amendment came into force on 05 September 2022.

2. FSSAI amends the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020

The FSSAI has through the <u>Gazette Notification</u> dated 09 September 2022 issued Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) First Amendment Regulations, 2022 to further amend the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, which has come into force on 09 September 2022.

The following amendments have been *inter alia* carried out:

Change in Nutritional labelling

 Regulation 5(3)(b)(ii)(c) which deals with the declaration of Nutritional Information per 100g or 100ml or per single consumption pack of the product and per serve percentage has been amended in as much as the second proviso has been substituted by: -

- <u>"Provided that saturated fat and trans-fat</u> <u>are to be given only if the total fat content</u> <u>is more than 0.5% in the final food."</u>
- Furthermore, in Regulation 5(3)(b)(ii)(c), after the aforementioned proviso, a new proviso has been inserted which states that "Provided further that cholesterol content to be given only for products containing fats of animal origin and where total fat content is more than 0.5%"
- The exemption from mandatory nutritional labelling provided under Regulation 5(3)(c)(xi) has been modified from "Chewing-gums" to "Chewing gum and bubble gum"

Change in date markings

 In Regulation 5(10), which deals with "Date Marking," after clause (b)(i), a proviso has been inserted, which provides that for "products with a shelf life of more than three months, the "DD/MM/YY" format may also be used."

Change in the declaration of food allergens

 In Regulation 5(14)(i), which deals with "The declaration regarding food allergen" after the words "To be declared as the name of the cereal", the following has been inserted, namely -

> "Except (a) wheat-based glucose syrups including dextrose*; (b) wheat-based <u>maltodextrins</u>*; (c) glucose syrups based on barley; (d) cereals used for making alcoholic distillates including ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin; Note: * The products thereof, provided these ingredients have been assessed as safe and gluten shall not be more than 20 mg/kq."

• The Second provision has also been substituted with "Provided further that this declaration is not required in case of oils and distilled alcoholic beverages derived from these ingredients and where the product itself is a food allergen."

Change in height of letters and numerals on the Principal Display Panel

• In Regulation 6(3) which deals with "Height of any numeral and letter required in a Display Panel", the table stating minimum height of numerals has been modified and a proviso has been inserted, which provides that "the size of numeral or letter required for all declarations under these regulations on the crown or closure of returnable glass bottle shall not be less than 1 mm"

Packages with a surface area less than 30cm² exempted from date labels

 In Regulation 8, which deals with "Exemptions from certain labelling requirements", the following has been inserted after sub-regulation (1)-

> "The 'date of manufacture' and 'Use by Date or Expiry Date' may not be required to be mentioned on the package having a surface area of less than thirty square centimetres, but this information shall be given on the multiunit packages.

Declaration of the quantity of caffeine removed

• The Amendment provides that the provisio "Provided if caffeine is added in the products, the quantity of the added caffeine (in ppm) shall also be declared in the list of ingredients." be deleted.

3. FSSAI Amends the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011

The FSSAI has through <u>Gazette Notification</u> dated 13 September 2022, issued Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2022 to further amend the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, which shall come into force on 1 April 2023. In Regulation 2.4 which deals with "Cereals and Cereal Products," the following sub-regulation 2.4.39 has been inserted namely: -

"Fermented Soybean Curd And Fermented Soybean Curd (made with S. thermophilus + L. bulgaricus)..."

*See notification for more details

4. FSSAI Integrated Assessment of the laboratories

Vide Notice dated 02 September 2022, the FSSAI has directed that the recognition of FSSAI food laboratories is subject to the following conditions: (a) FSSAI will only accept fresh proposals from laboratories as per the Annexure to Format 3 of NABL 154 document available on the NABL website; and (b) All those laboratories already recognized under Section 43(1) and Referral Laboratories under Section 43(2) by FSSAI and which have not obtained FSSAI-NABL accreditation under Section 43(1) and Referral Laboratories under Section 43(2) must obtain the same prior to the expiry of their NABL approved validity period or on before 30 June 2023.

 FSSAI issues clarification dated 05 September 2022 regarding the use of blends of oils/emulsions/ hydrogenated vegetable oils intended to be sold as intermediary ingredients

> Vide Notification dated 05 September 2022, the FSSAI has clarified that the blends of oils/emulsions/hydrogenated vegetable oils intended to be used as an intermediate product in the manufacture of products by food businesses may be allowed subject to compliance with the following conditions: (a) Licenses shall be granted for the purpose of B2B sale only. Retail sale of such products is strictly prohibited; (b) such licensed products shall only be sold for B2B purposes in unit packs of not less than 500 ml or 500g and have proper labelling declarations for non-retail containers specified under FSS (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020. In addition, each such individual pack shall clearly specify 'Not for Sale to consumer'/'Intermediate product for use in formulating another product' on the label"; and

(c) both manufacturer and the user of such intermediate products shall maintain all records in respect of their inventory and supplier/manufacturer details and produce the inventory record as and when sought by the Food Authority or any other officer authorised by it.

 FSSAI issues an order dated 08 September 2022 regarding approved test methods for the detection of Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B12 in Fortified Rice

> The FSSAI has vide its <u>Order</u> dated 08 September 2022 notified methods for testing of fortificants (Iron, Folic Acid, and Vitamin B12) in "Fortified Rice" and requested the food testing laboratories to use the notified methods with immediate effect.

- FSSAI issues an order dated 13 September 2022 regarding Mandatory declaration of FSSAI License / Registration number on cash receipts/invoices/cash memo/bills etc. by all Food Businesses on sale of food products
- Vide an <u>Order</u> dated 13 September 2022, the FSSAI has directed to carry out special drives to sensitize the Food Business Operators to mention FSSAI License/ Registration number on cash receipts /invoices /cash memos/ bills etc. As per the order, it has been made mandatory to leclare a 14-digit FSSAI License/ Registration number on cash receipts/ invoices/ cash memos/ bills, etc. by all food businesses selling food products, with effect from 01 January 2022.

9. FSSAI issues an updated list of Accredited Laboratories

Vide a <u>Notification</u> dated 16 September 2022, the FSSAI had provided an updated list of FSSAI recognized Food Testing Laboratories. FSSAI issues directions regarding the graphic representation of Vegan logo

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The FSSAI on 14 September 2022 issued <u>directions</u> under the Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Regulations, 2022 and has provided a detailed graphic specification of the "Vegan Logo".

 FSSAI issued an order dated 15 September 2022 regarding the suspension of Bali Test House Pvt. Ltd., Ludhiana

The FSSAI vide its <u>Order</u> dated 16 September 2022, noted that Bali Test House Pvt. Ltd., Ludhiana has been suspended by NABL w.e.f 30 April 2022 as per the conditions 4 and 5 of clause 4.4 of the NABL Document No. 216. Thus, due to the suspension of the aforementioned laboratory by NABL, with effect from 15 September 2022, FSSAI has suspended Bali Test House Private Limited, from carrying out any chemical and biological scope of testing for the purpose of carrying out the analysis of food sample under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder for a period of 06 months or till revocation of suspension by the NABL.

 FSSAI issues a Clarification dated 26 September 2022 regarding the requirement of "Health Certificate" to be accompanied by the import of the food consignment.

On 3 August 2022, the FSSAI issued an order regarding the requirement of a Health Certificate for imported food consignments. As per the order, the food consignments of the food categories; i) Milk and Milk products, ii) Pork and Pork products, iii) Fish and fish products as specified in the FSS (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 have to be accompanied by a Health certificate issued by Competent Authority of the exporting country in the prescribed format and the same will be

effective from 1 November 2022. In this regard, the FSSAI has vide <u>Order</u> dated 26 September 2022, clarified that an integrated/single certificate incorporating food safety-related requirements/ attestations is also accepted by FSSAI at the time of import clearance. It may be ensured that the integrated certificate shall incorporate all the information as per the format notified vide order dated 3 August 2022.

1. FSSAI amends the Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017

> The FSSAI vide a <u>Notification</u> dated 11 October 2022 notified the *"the Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients) First Amendment Regulations, 2022" to amend the Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017*

Vide the amendment, Regulation 4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017, relating to the Procedure for grant of prior approval has been amended.

2. FSSAI amends the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020

The FSSAI vide <u>Notification</u> dated 11 October 2022 has amended the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020.

Vide the notification, Schedule II of the Regulations has been amended and now states that the mandatory declaration *"Chewing Of Pan Masala Is Injurious To Health"* shall cover 50% of the front of the packaging.

The amendment also modifies the "Labelling of various types of bread"

The amendments are effective from 01 May 2023

3. FSSAI modifies the list of referral labs

The FSSAI vide a <u>Notification</u> dated 18 October 2022 has modified the list of Referral labs.

*See notification for further details

 FSSAI amends the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011

Vide <u>Notification</u> dated 27 October 2022, the FSSAI has amended the Food Safety and

Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 to include a list of enzymes derived from Genetically Modified Microorganisms under the head *"use of processing aids in food product"*.

5. FSSAI issues clarification on the application for endorsement of the vegan logo

Vide a <u>Clarification</u> dated 07 October 2022, FSSAI has clarified that Food Business Operators while applying for endorsements of the vegan logo are required to issue separate applications for each variant/product and that such application cannot be made for more than one variant/product.

6. FSSAI issues methods for testing "fortificants" for fortified rice.

The FSSAI vide an <u>Order</u> dated 08 September 2022 has provided for the methods for testing "fortificants" (Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12) for fortified rice.

 FSSAI makes registration of foreign food manufacturing facilities mandatory for certain food categories

> Vide an Order dated 10 October 2022, the FSSAI has made registration mandatory for foreign food manufacturing facilities falling under the food categories i.e., Milk and Milk roducts, Meat and meat products including poultry, fish and their products, Egg powder, Infant food, Nutraceuticals.

> The order comes into effect from 01 February 2023.

8. FSSAI restricts the import of certain food categories to 61 ports

Vide an <u>Order</u> dated 17 October 2022, the FSSAI has restricted the import of Milk and Milk products, Meat and meat products including poultry, fish and their products, Egg powder, Infant food, nutraceuticals., health supplements, food for dietary uses, probiotic and prebiotic foods, foods for special medical purposes by specifying 61 ports via which the products can be imported. Such products cannot be imported through ports other than the ones specified in the list.

The order becomes effective from 01 February 2023.

9. FSSAI advises FBOs to process bill of entry in advance for importing food items

Vide an <u>advisory</u> dated 12 October 2022, FSSAI has advised FBOs importing food items to avail the facility of advance processing of Bill of Entry in FICS while importing food consignments. This advisory has been issued to facilitate faster clearance of food imports.

10. FSSAI issues an updated list of Accredited Laboratories

Vide a <u>Notification</u> dated 17 October 2022, the FSSAI had provided an updated list of FSSAI recognized Food Testing Laboratories.

 FSSAI issues directions facilitating faster processing of consignments for Authorised Economic Operators

> Vide a Notice dated 18 October 2022, the FSSAI has issued directions that FBO's having an Authorised Economic Operators certificate shall declare and submit their undertaking/declaration in a specified form to the concerned authorised officer who shall then inspect the consignment and draw samples and issue a no objection certificate without waiting for the analysis report qua the samples.

12. FSSAI limits the scope of scrutiny of alcoholic beverages for industrial use

The FSSAI on 20 October 2022 has issued a clarification with respect to the import of alcoholic beverages i.e., bulk consignments with high alcohol content (intermediary products) which are used as an ingredient for the manufacture of alcoholic beverages.

The clarification states that only the safety parameters and labelling requirements of such consignments shall be scrutinized against Regulation 1.3.9 of the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages), Regulation 2018.

13. FSSAI limits the scope of re-testing imported goods

Vide a <u>Notice</u> dated 21 October 2022, the FSSAI has issued directions that in cases of imported consignments which fail laboratory testing (primary laboratory) such consignments shall be re-tested at the Referral laboratories only for the failed parameters.

14. FSSAI issues directions qua the requirement of health certificates for imported foods

FSSAI vide an Order dated 27 October 2022 had stated that the requirement for a health certificate to be accompanied with import of food consignment will be effective from 1 January 2023

15. FSSAI sets limits of copper in HOPS for brewing beer

Vide an <u>order</u> dated 28 October 2022, the FSSAI has issued a clarification specifying the limit of traces of copper in HOPS used for brewing beer.

 FSSAI operationalizes the Food Safety and 4. Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Amendment Regulations, 2022

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in exercise of its powers under Sections 18(2)(d) and 16(5) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has <u>issued a</u> <u>notification</u> for the operationalization of Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Amendment Regulations, 2022 relating to revised limits of Selenium, Manganese, iron, and biotin.

2. FSSAI specifies the limit of naturally occurring Formaldehyde in Freshwater and Marine Fish

Vide an Order dated 18 October 2022, the FSSAI in the exercise of its power under Section 18 (2) (d) read with Section 16(5) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has re-operationalised the provisions of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Amendment Regulations, 2021 relating to limit of naturally occurring formaldehyde in freshwater and marine fish with effect from 13 September 2022.

 FSSAI's Directions on Operationalization of FSS (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2022

The FSSAI has, <u>vide Notification dated 18</u> <u>October 2022</u>, issued directions under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 relating to the re-operationalisation of Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose and Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2022 with effect from 01 October 2022. FSSAI publishes the Draft Amendments for Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2022

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) vide <u>Notification dated 31 October</u> <u>2022</u> published draft amendments for Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives). The draft amendments include new and revised standards for palm oil; meat sausages; dehydrated tarragon (whole and powdered form); Indian mithais (sweets) and namkeens (savoury); and food colour (preparations and mixtures).

 FSSAI issues an Order qua the revision of inspection checklists regarding allotment of marks

> FSSAI had, vide Order dated 09 March 2018 and Corrigendum dated 14 May 2020, implemented the revised inspection checklist for facilitating the Food Safety Officers to efficiently inspect Food Businesses as per Kind of Business ("KOB"). These checklists have been developed based on Schedule 4 requirements of FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 and subsequent Orders. According to the Order dated 09 March 2018, marks are to be awarded for each point of the checklist as per the findings/observations i.e.. Compliance, Non-compliance, Partial Compliance, Not Applicable/Not observed is mentioned. In case of Not Applicable/Not Observed Finding, full marks are to be awarded.

> In order to improvise the checklist and method of allotting the marks, <u>vide an Order</u> <u>dated 02 November 2022</u>, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has decided that marks shall be given only to those requirements which are applicable as per the

respective Kinds of Business. As per the Order, the requirements that are "Not Applicable' to a food business shall not be taken into consideration while evaluating the Inspection Score/ Grading. This change has also been incorporated in online portals FoSCoS/FoSCoRIS for conducting inspections with effect from 28 October 2022.

6. FSSAI extends the period of recognition for NRLs & ANRLs till 31 March 2022 Laboratories

Vide an Order dated 3 November 2022, FSSAI has extended the recognition of National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) and Ancillary National Reference Laboratory (ANRLs), which were granted recognition by FSSAI vide Order dated 23 August 2019 and the Order dated 28 July 2022, till 31 March 2023.

7. FSSAI caps penalties resulting from late submission of annual returns

The Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, specifies the penalty for delay in submission of Annual Return as INR 100 per day beyond 31 May of every year. However, there was no provision in the said regulation for the capping of the maximum amount of penalty levied due to non-submission of Annual Returns due to which the Food Business Operator was being subjected to heavy fines.

In order to reduce the burden on the food businesses owing to accumulated penalties, the FSSAI vide an Order dated 10 November 2022, FSSAI has capped penalties incurred by food businesses due to delay in the submission of Annual Returns by substituting clause 2.1.13 of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses Regulations), 2011 with "Any delay in filing return beyond 31 May of each year shall attract a penalty of INR 100 per day for delay till the date of filing the return. The maximum penalty that can be levied shall not exceed 05 times the annual fees." The amendment would come into effect from FY 2021-2022 onward for which the extended last date of return was 30 June 2022.

The aforementioned Order further states the amount of penalty levied due to delay in submission of Annual Return with effect from FY 2021-2022 [subject to the maximum penalty levied not exceeding five times the annual fees] shall be required to be paid by the food businesses before applying for renewal of their licenses.

8. FSSAI releases clarification regarding the sale of hemp seeds and seed products

FSSAI vide a clarification dated 10 November 2022, has clarified that the hemp seeds and seed products are standardized under sub-regulation 2.16 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 and as such these products shall be allowed on the e-commerce website subject to holding a valid FSSAI license and compliance with the standards so prescribed.

9. FSSAI issues order on rectifiable labelling information for imported food consignments

FSSAI has, vide an Order dated 18 November 2022, notified that all non-complaint labels on imported food consignment may be rectified at the port itself in order to facilitate ease of trade while ensuring the safety of food imported into India. The aforementioned Order provides that the rectification has to be carried out at Customs bound warehouses, before visual inspection or re-inspection by the Authorised Officer or his representative, by affixing a single non-detachable sticker or by any other nondetachable method.

10. FSSAI proposes Draft regulations for genetically modified food

The FSSAI has, on <u>18 November 2022</u>, issued the <u>Draft Food Safety and Standards (Genetically</u> <u>Modified Foods) Regulation</u>, <u>2022</u>. This shall apply to: (a) Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) intended for food use; (b) Food ingredients produced from GMOs that contain modified DNA; (c) Food ingredients produced from GMOs that do not contain modified DNA. It includes ingredients/additives/processing aids derived from GMOs.

 FSSAI re-operationalises the FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Amendment Regulations, 2021)

The FSSAI in the exercise of the powers vested under Section 18(2)(d) read with Section 16(5) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has issued a <u>notification dated 15 November 2022</u> to re-operationalise the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Amendment Regulations with effect from 11 November 2022.

12. FSSAI releases a list of recognised Food Testing Laboratories

Vide an Order dated 28 November 2022, FSSAI had- released a list of FSSAI recognised laboratories along with validity of their NABL accreditation, scope of testing and contact details.

1. FSSAI introduces a new category of Kind of Business (KoB) and inspection checklist for Fish and Fish Products under FoSCoS for License

> The Food Safety and Standards Authority of 4. India (FSSAI) vide <u>order dated 28 December</u> <u>2022</u>, introduced a new Kind of Business (KoB) and inspection checklist for Fish and Fish Products under FoSCoS for License. Earlier there was no separate Kind of Business (KoB) for Manufacturers of Fish and Fish products and these products were licensed either under General manufacturing or Meat processing KoB.

2. FSSAI issues a clarification letter to the food safety commissioners prohibiting the unnecessary seizure of food articles by the Food Safety Officers

> FSSAI vide a letter dated 6 December 2022, issued directions regarding the seizure of food articles by the Food Safety Officers (FSO). It was noted by the authority that FSOs seized food articles even in case of minor violations and without any reasonable grounds to believe that the food article was adulterated or unsafe and also carried out multiple sampling of the same lot in different pack sizes to reach sampling targets.

> Hence, Food Safety Officers and Designated Officers have been requested to exercise their powers with due diligence and strictly adhere to procedural requirements of sampling and legal proceedings as stipulated under the FSS Act/ Rules.

3. FSSAI extends the timeline for mandatory declaration of the milk logo

FSSAI vide an order dated 09 December 2022 issued a direction regarding the extension of the time-period for mandatory compliance of declaration of milk logo on milk & milk products since the specifications (dimensions and colour scheme) of the milk logo are yet to be finalized. The extension is operative for at least six months from the date of issue of such specifications for compliance with milk logo requirements.

FSSAI notifies the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Second Amendment Regulations, 2022

FSSAI vide a notification dated 13 December 2022 has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Second Amendment Regulations, 2022 thereby amending the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018.

The amendment *inter alia* modifies/introduces several provisions relating to claims that can be made with respect to nutrient contents, equivalence, non-addition of sodium salts, non-addition of additives, etc.

*see the notification for further information

FSSAI issues a letter to stakeholders importing "Milk and Milk Products", "Pork and Pork Products" and "Fish and Fish Products" to check their products against a list of HS codes before applying for a Health Certificate

FSSAI vide letter dated 28 December 2022, issued a list of HS codes and has directed FBOs importing food product categories i.e. "Milk and Milk products", "Pork and Pork products" and "Fish and Fish products" to verify whether their food products fall within the list provided before applying for a Health Certificate.

FSSAI issues a notification regarding instant modification of license in case of addition and deletion of non-high-risk standardized food products in the existing license by manufacturers

FSSAI vide an order dated 29 December 2022 allowed the instant modification of license in case of modification applications for the

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addition of any of the standardized food products under the Vegetable Oil and Processing Units KoB and General Manufacturing KoB except the High-Risk Food Categories i.e., 01, 08, 09, 13 and 99.

The provision will be available only for existing Licensed Manufacturers. The 9. modification fee shall be the same i.e., INR. 1000/-.

The same has been implemented in the FOSCOS portal with effect from 23 December 2022.

7. FSSAI issues a clarification with respect to Rectifiable labelling information for imported food consignments

> FSSAI vide order dated 27 December 2022, has clarified that in cases where the labels on imported food consignments are found to be non-compliant by the laboratory during analysis, the importer may rectify the label and the concerned Assessing Officer or his representative shall verify the compliance and issue a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the said consignment. 4

Draft notifications for comments

8.

FSSAI issues a draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Amendment Regulations, 2022 for comments from stakeholders.

FSSAI on 30 November 2022 issued a draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Amendment Regulations, 2022 which would amend the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Regulations, 2020 and has invited objections or suggestions from stakeholders.

The draft introduces several changes to the labeling requirements under the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Regulations, 2020.

Stakeholders have a period of 60 days to provide their objections/suggestion.

*For further information, kindly refer to the notification.

FSSAI issues a draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Amendment Regulations, 2022 for comments from stakeholders.

FSSAI on 21 December 2022 issued a <u>draft of</u> <u>the Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods)</u> <u>Amendment Regulations, 2022</u> that would amend the Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Regulations, 2022 and has invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders.

The draft essentially provides the proposed vegan logo and specifies its dimensions.

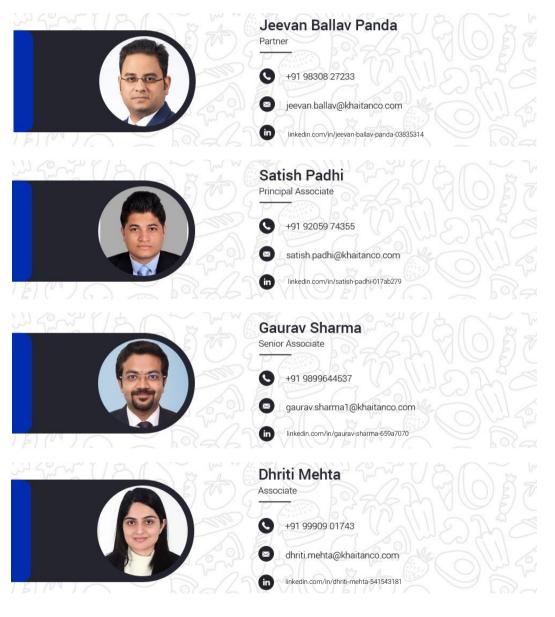
Stakeholders have a period of 60 days to provide their objections/suggestion.

*For further information, kindly refer to the notification.

AMBITION STATEMENT

"Our ambition is to be a respectable law firm providing efficient and courteous service, to act with fairness, integrity and diligence, to be socially responsible and to enjoy life. We should put greater emphasis on working in consonance with our aforesaid values than on maximizing earnings. Earn we should but with dignity and pleasure."

Our Team



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