NEWSLETTER

FSSAI ORDERS, ADVISORIES, NOTIFICATIONS & DIRECTIONS

APRIL ISSUE

FSSAI clarifies categorization of health drinks / energy drinks on Ecommerce websites

FSSAI has directed all e-commerce food business operators (FBOs) to not refer to dairy based beverage mix or malt based beverage mix or cereal based beverage mix as "Health drink or Energy drink". FSSAI has clarified categorization of energy drinks under carbonated & non- carbonated water based flavored drinks. Further, 'health drink' is not defined / standardized anywhere under the FSS Act 2006 or rules / regulations made there under. FBO's are advised to remove / de-link such drinks / beverages falling under the purview of FSS Act 2006 from the category of 'health drinks / energy drinks' on their website and place such products in the appropriate category to avoid misleading information to consumers.

(03 APRIL 2024)

Annual return submission by the food businesses

FSSAI has given advisory on annual return submission for FBOs (manufacturer-relabeller & repacker, importer and manufacturer exporter). FBOs shall apply for annual return by 31st May every year on FoSCoS. penalty for non – submission will be ₹ 100 / Day wef 1st June and maximum penalty will be 5 times the annual license fee. FSSAI has also given provision to file revised annual return.

FSSAI has advised to all the eligible FBOs to strictly adhere to the timeline for filing annual return.

(16 APRIL 2024)

Clarification on the requirement of document for proof of premises for the purpose of making licensing application through FoSCoS

FSSAI has given list of documents that may be referred for enclosing the documents for proof of premises while applying for license. Further, FSSAI has mentioned during scrutinization of license application ,DO may consider any other document(other than listed) as proof of premises which establishes the possession of premises by the FBO.

(12 APRIL 2024)

Document for proof of premises for the purpose of making licensing application through FoSCoS in case of shared workspaces

FSSAI has given provision for the documents to be provided for proof of premises by the FBOs operating from shared workspaces while applying for license. FBOs must ensure that the authorized signatory has a permanent address within any Indian State/UT.

Further, this provision is restricted to specific KOBs including re-labeller, ecommerce, importer (if IEC is issued on the same location), trader / merchant – exporter (if IEC is issued on the same location), food vending agencies, transportation, head office / registered office. However, it excludes businesses involving storage of food items.

(12 APRIL 2024)

Maximum residue limits (MRLs) of pesticides for spices & culinary herbs

The MRLs of pesticides for food commodities including spices and culinary herbs are specified under FSSR (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues)2011. These MRLs are fixed based on the field trail data received from Central insecticide board and registration committee (CIB&RC). If pesticide is registered with CIB&RC and pesticides are specified for other commodities other than spices & culinary herbs, then the MRL specified under Codex shall be applicable.

Further, if the MRL is not specified by the Codex or not registered with CIB&RC, then the MRL of 0.1 mg/Kg shall be applicable for spices and culinary herbs.

(10 APRIL 2024)

Requirement of Registration of Foreign Food Manufacturing facilities as per Food Safety and Standards (Import) First Amendment Regulations, 2021

In reference to order dated 10th October 2022 for Foreign food manufacturing facilities(FFMF), FSSAI has decided that information regarding FFMF shall be provided by competent authority of the exporting countries and data will be maintained & managed by FSSAI. Accordingly a online portal - ReFoM available at FSSAI has been created for registration of FFMF.

(12 APRIL 2024)

FSSAI launches awareness campaign on food safety aspects at prominent markets of Delhi

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched an extensive awareness and sensitization program targeting major markets in the national capital, in collaboration with the Food Safety Department, Delhi. Kicking off from the popular Khan Market and INA Market of Delhi on 8th April, 2024, the awareness campaign will focus particularly on the detection and mitigation of pesticide residue and contaminants in food products.

FBOs were sensitized about importance of organic farming, raw material testing, ill effects of pesticide residues, artificial ripening and wax coating using unapproved chemicals. Additionally, attendees were introduced to FSSAI's pioneering initiative, the "Food Safety on Wheel" mobile lab and were informed on the necessity of FSSAI license or registration and strict adherence to the food safety standards.

The event emphasized the collective responsibility in ensuring food safety, with the mantra, "Food Safety is Everyone's Responsibility".

(08 APRIL 2024)

Clarification regarding display of information such as declaration of calorific value, allergen, nutritional information, etc. by food service establishments

FSSAI has clarified the permitted methods for display of information for food service establishment. The calorific value, allergens, and veg / non-veg logo can be displayed on menus or board while Nutritional information can be provided through booklets ,handouts & websites.

Further, E-commerce FBOs shall get the requisite nutritional information from respective FBOs and provide on their website wherever applicable.

FSSAI has advised licensing authorities to adhere to the above provisions diligently and avoid any unnecessary actions including issuance of notices, suspension of license, etc.

(04 APRIL 2024)

Validity of FSSAI Recognised Food testing laboratories

FSSAI has issued a list of FSSAI recognized laboratories along with their NABL accreditation validity as on 23rd April 2024 along with the contact details for the purpose of carrying out the analysis of food samples as per the Food Safety and Standard Act,2006 and rules & regulations made thereunder.

(24 APRIL 2024)