NEWSLETTER

FSSAI ORDERS, ADVISORIES, NOTIFICATIONS & DIRECTIONS NOVEMBER ISSUE

FSSAI emphasizes on special enforcement drive to check adulteration of various flours, sweets, savouries, milk and milk products like Ghee, Khoya, Paneer etc. during the festive season

During the festive season as Demand for sweets, savouries, milk and milk products like Ghee, Khoya, Paneer increases across the country, the economic motivation for adulteration also rises. Therefore, to curb such practices FSSAI has emphasized on the conduction of strict vigil/ enforcement drives for ensuring safety of such products.

(01 NOVEMBER 2023)

Extension of Last Date for online submission of annual returns for the FY 2022-2023 and renewal of expired license/registration from 01.05.2023 for State of Manipur only

Keeping in view the prevailed law and order situation in Manipur, FSSAI has granted extension for the Renewal of expired licenses/registrations which had expired since 01.05.2023 without any penalty, if FBOs apply for renewal on or before 15th November, 2023. Authority along with this has also extended the deadline for the submission of Annual Returns for the FBOs till 15th November, 2023 without any late fee.

(07 NOVEMBER 2023)

FSSAI has approved test methods for detection of Iron, Folic Acid & Vitamin B12 in Fortified Rice Kernel

The Scientific Panel on Methods of Sampling and Analysis has approved the methods for the determination of the Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B12 in fortified rice kernel using different techniques such as Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometer (ICP-OES) and LC-MS/MS.

(08 NOVEMBER 2023)

Directions regarding display of 'Best Before date' in case of nonpackaged/loose sweets

FSSAI has withdrawn the direction dated 25.09.2020 for the mandatory declaration of the 'best before' date on container/ trays of non- packaged/ loose sweets. Along with this Authority has further clarified that best before date can be made on voluntary/ optional basis on non-packaged sweet /loose sweet containers/ trays

(08 NOVEMBER 2023)

Strengthening the Quality Control Mechanism of Fortified Rice, Fortified Rice Kernels [FRK] and Premix for FRK

FSSAI has specified that FBOs manufacturing FRK and premix for FRK have to obtain FSSAI license (central/state) only. Furthermore, a transition period of 3 months is given for shifting to the license. Authority also specifies to utilize all the existing packaging and labelling materials, failing to which the mentioned products will be removed from the existing registration certificate.

FSSAI also mentions to mandatorily upload the test reports of each batch of aforementioned products on FoSCoS portal along with the submission of a declaration regarding the Source of iron used and Blending ratio of FRK with rice for every batch.

(08 NOVEMBER 2023)

FSSAI has revised the option for selecting the validity period during application for FSSAI License/registration

FSSAI withdraws the order dated 11.01.23 related to the validity of the renewal and validity of new license and registration.

Henceforth, FBO applying for new license/registration or applying for renewal will now be able to select the validity period of 1 to 5 years with effect from 8.11.23 with fee as applicable for the selected period. However, the other remaining conditions of the aforementioned order will remain unchanged.

(09 NOVEMBER 2023)

FSSAI has launched FoSCoS portal in multiple regional languages

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched (FoSCoS) portal in multiple regional languages such as Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, apart from Hindi and English, with plans of launching in Kannada, Punjabi, Malayalam, Assamese, Bengali and Odia also. This launch will increase participation, enhance compliance and allow the easy connect with portal.

(14 NOVEMBER 2023)

FSSAI has operationalized Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations w.r.t. the standards of Vitamin and Mineral Premix for manufacturing of FRK

In order to strengthen the national level fortification programme and further its implementation, FSSAI has been decided to operationalize the provisions related to the limits of micronutrients in vitamin and mineral premix for manufacturing of FRK as finalization of the draft FSS (FPS&FA) Amendment regulation will take some time.

(17 NOVEMBER 2023)

FSSAI has re-operationalized FSS (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose and Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2022

FSSAI has decided to re-operationalize the FSS (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose and Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2022 till 1st January, 2023 as the finalization of these draft regulations is likely to take some time before being notified.

(17 NOVEMBER 2023)

FSSAI specifies the Application Fees for Vegan Logo Endorsement Applications as per Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Regulations, 2022

FSSAI has revised the application fees for the vegan logo endorsement for applied products from Rs. 25000/-(excluding GST) per product to Rs.10000/-(excluding GST) per application irrespective of number of products. Furthermore, it shall be in force with immediate effect.

(20 NOVEMBER 2023)

FSSAI urges the Monitoring of sale of fresh fruits & vegetables for presence of pesticides residues, non-permitted wax coating, non-permitted artificial ripener and artificial colours in the market

In order to curb the menace of excess use of pesticides, non-permitted wax coating, non-permitted artificial ripener and artificial colours, FSSAI has requested to keep a strict vigil on FBOs who are engaged in manufacturing /re-packing fresh /surface treated/minimally processed fruits and vegetables. Therefore, surveillance/ enforcement activities may be undertaken from time to time to ensure the compliance of FSS Act,2006 and rules and regulations made thereunder.

(21 NOVEMBER 2023)

Use of Steviol glycoside (stevia) in 'cocoa and chocolate products' and 'imitation chocolate'

'Steviol glycoside' as an additive is not permitted for use in 'Cocoa and Chocolate products and 'Imitation chocolate, chocolate substitute products'. FSSAI, further clarifies that Since, 'steviol glycoside' is permitted as an additive in other food categories such as Dairy-based drinks, Powder analogues, Dairy based desserts, Edible ices, Canned or bottled (pasteurized) fruit etc., FBOs cannot seek approval as 'Non-Specified Food/Food Ingredient/Food Additive'. Therefore, 'steviol glycoside' cannot be used in aforementioned products till further decision, along with this FBOS are also directed to not manufacture and/or sell any such product.

(28 NOVEMBER 2023)

FSSAI specifies the Rectifiable labelling information for imported food consignments

FSSAI has specified that all the labelling deficiencies on imported food consignment can be rectified except of Lot No. / Code No. / Batch identification Order, Date Marking and Country of Origin for Imported Foods. Authority has also specified that Label rectification has to be carried out at Customs bonded warehouses by affixing a single non detachable sticker. Further, verification of label compliance has to be carried out before subjection of the consignment to sampling and testing.

(28 NOVEMBER 2023)

FSSAI has requested for conduction of market surveillance to check the adulteration of Cassia (Taj) in Cinnamon (Dalchini) and misbranding of such products

FSSAI has received complaints regarding the malpractices involving the adulteration of Cassia (Taj) in Cinnamon (Dalchini) and misbranding for higher profit margin. In this regard, FSSAI has informed different standards for both with an aid in distinction including the maximum permissible limit of coumarin in Cinnamon standards.

In this view Commissioners of Food Safety of States/UTs and the Central Licensing Authorities of FSSAI are requested to conduct a market surveillance drive to check the prevalence of such malpractices concerning the adulteration of spices.

(28 NOVEMBER 2023)