

F. No. 4 (37)2017/States/RCD/FSSAI/RCD/FSSAI  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India  
(A Statutory body under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India)  
(Regulatory Compliance Division)  
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002

Dated the, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2020

To,

The Commissioner of Food Safety of All States/UTs

**Subject: - Improving Vigilance Administration: Increasing Transparency in the Departments of Food Safety (DoFS) of States/UTs-Reg.**

**Reference: FSSAI Letter No. 4 (37)2017/States/RCD/FSSAI (Vol-1) dated 07.02.20219.**

Madam/Sir,

Please refer to the reference cited above vide which state specific actions as per the recommendations of the CAG and PSC were communicated to all the CoFS of all States/UTs, including creation of separate Anti-Corruption units in the Departments of Food Safety of States/UTs.

It is informed that the various complaints alleging the seeking of graft and other malpractices against the officials of the Departments of Food Safety of States/UTs have been received by this office. Further, serious observations regarding corrupt practices have also been made by the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare vide its 110<sup>th</sup> and 121<sup>st</sup> reports.

In this regard, it is requested to ensure that such complaints about corruption should be investigated expeditiously and the stringent action against the delinquent officials should be taken who are found to have indulged in such corrupt practices under the appropriate conduct rules.

It also advised that the pendency related to the complaints, major/minor penalty cases and pending investigations with departmental investigating officers should be reviewed periodically to ensure their timely and expeditiously disposal.

In order to improve vigilance administration and to sensitize the public, vendors, contractors and suppliers etc. having dealings with the respective Department of Food Safety, the notice boards need to be displayed at all the offices in the format as mentioned in CVC Circular No. 14/6/09 dated 05<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 (**Copy attached**), in English, Hindi and as well as in the vernacular language of the area.

Further, all the measures related to preventive vigilance and improving the transparency in the functioning of the departments, including conducting of system audits, reducing human interface and discretion in conducting of inspections, training and awareness building amongst the Dos/FSOs etc. should be put in place to ensure that inspection process is streamlined and transparent and the same is used to regulate and monitor food safety and not harass any FBO.

An action taken report on above may be sent to this office. Also the details of such complaints alleging the corrupt practices against the officials of the Department of Food Safety, along with action taken on the same for the period **01<sup>st</sup> January, 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020** may be shared with this office.

**Issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.**

**Encl. As above.**

Yours sincerely,



**(Dr. Shobhit Jain)**

Executive Director (Compliance Strategy)

**Copy to:-**

1. All the Regional Directors, FSSAI: - For similar necessary action in the matter.
2. CITO, FSSAI-for uploading this advisory on FSSAI website immediately.