

FSSAI lays conditions for extension of lab accreditation

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FSSAI has laid conditions for extension of the validity of the notified laboratories and asked the primary notified laboratories to get their accreditation done through FSSAI-NABL Integrated Assessment mode.

A notice in this regards was issued by the FSSAI saying, "All those primary notified laboratories who have not obtained their accreditation through FSSAI –NABL Integrated Assessment mode, including State Food Testing Labs under Section 43 (1), must obtain the same prior to the expiry of their NABL approved validity period," and added that it was advised to initiate this process at the earliest.

The notice added that NABL should also accept any fresh application of labs be it private, public or state owned, for FSSAI recognition through the integrated mode.

Further, the state food laboratories other than notified and who have applied for NABL accreditation, should apply for FSSAI-NABL Integrated assessment within 1 year from the date of their final application submitted to NABL. The Notice says that such labs should apply for integrated assessment within 6 months from the date of obtaining accreditation from NABL.

In June 2019, the FSSAI has issued a notice saying that the apex food regulator will be recognising food testing laboratories only through the unified approach of laboratory accreditation/recognition/approval system of NABL. And it had asked the food labs willing to apply for FSSAI's recognition to apply only through the unified system.

Also, last year in June the NABL also issued a policy note for extension in validity of accreditation. The NABL Policy says that it was decided to extend the validity of accreditation for a period of one year to all conformity assessment bodies (CABs) where renewal of accreditation is to take place and accreditation validity date is between 01.01.2020 and 30.06.2022.