

## **FSSAI to notify 13 reference labs, including five private facilities**

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**Ashwani Maindola, New Delhi**

FSSAI, India's apex food regulator, will soon notify the reference labs in the country. Thirteen labs, including five private facilities, will be notified by the FSSAI.

Pawan Kumar Agarwal, chief executive officer, FSSAI, has said that the process for identifying the labs had been completed and soon the labs shall be notified.

He said, "The work related to regulations, identification of labs and the process to notify these facilities has been completed and soon a notification in this regards shall be issued."

Agarwal stated that FSSAI was established under the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011, as a statutory body for laying down science-based standards for articles of food and to regulate the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of food, so as to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

He elaborated that Regulation 3 of the Food Safety and Standards (Recognition and Notification of Laboratories) Regulations, 2018, prescribed the Appointment of Reference Laboratories as under:

- The food authority may recognise any notified food laboratory or referral food laboratory, as a reference laboratory for the purpose of developing methods of testing, validation, proficiency testing and training.
- The reference laboratory shall carry out the following functions, namely:
- be a resource centre for provision of information for certified reference materials and reference materials;
- develop standards for routine testing procedures and reliable testing methods;
- provide technical support in the area of competence;
- evaluate the performance of other notified laboratories;
- coordinate exchange of information amongst notified food laboratories;
- collaborate for data generation among the network of notified food laboratories and referral food laboratories and collate the data related to their specific domain; and

- such other functions as may be specified by the food authority

List of national reference laboratories (NRLs) approved by FSSAI

Serial number	Name of the laboratory/ institution/organisation	Address	Specific area for which declared as NRL
<b>Government laboratories</b>			
1	Central Food Technological Research Institute	FS & AQCL Department, CFTRI, Mysore-570020	Nutritional information and labelling
2	Export Inspection Agency	27/1767 A, Shipyard Quarters Road, Panampilly Nagar (South), Kochi-682036, Kerala	GMO(genetically-modified organism)testing (subject to implementation of GMO regulations)
3	Punjab Biotechnology Incubator	SCO 7-8, Phase-V, SAS Nagar, Mohali-160059, Punjab	Sweets and confectionery,including honey
4	ICAR-National Research Centre For Grapes	P O Manjiri Farm, Solapur Road, Pune-412307	Pesticideresidues and mycotoxins
5	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	CIFT Junction, Willingdon Island Matsyapuri P O, Kochi-682029	Fish and fishproducts
6	Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food-National Dairy Development Board	Opposite IRMA Main Gate, Near Anandalaya School, Anand-388001	Dairy and dairyproducts
7	CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research	Vishvigyan Bhawan, 31, Mahatama Gandhi Marg, Lucknow-226001, Uttar Pradesh	Toxicological evaluation/risk assessment of nutraceuticals, functional foods and novel/emerging foods/food ingredients
8	NIPHM	Pesticide Management Division, Rajendranagar,	Pesticide residue analysis in fruits andvegetables, cereals andpulses, spices and PTP for the same

		Hyderabad-500030	
<b>Private laboratories</b>			
9	Trilogy Analytical Laboratory Pvt Ltd	Plot Number 7, C F Area, Phase-II, IDA Cherlapally, Hyderabad-500051	Mycotoxins in cereals and pulses, spices and condiments and related PT activities.
10	Edward Food Research and Analysis Centre Limited	Subhas Nagar, Barasat P O, Nikunj Bazar, Kolkata-700121	Veterinary drug residues, antibiotics and hormones
11	Vimta Labs Limited	Life Sciences Campus, 5, MN Park, Genome Valley, Shameerpet, Hyderabad-500101	Water, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
12	Fare Labs Pvt Ltd	L-17/3, DLF, Ph-II, IFFCO Chowk, M G Road, Gurugram-122002	Oils and fats
13	Neogen Food and Animal Security (India) Private Limited	Uchikkal Lane, Poonithura P O, Cochin-682038	Food allergens