

FSSAI reoperationalises licensing and regn amendment regulations 2020

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The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a direction to re-operationalise the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Amendment Regulations 2020 with effect from March 27, 2021.

The draft of this regulation was notified in November last year and the comments, FSSAI says, were under consideration.

“As, the finalisation of these regulations would take some more time, it has been decided to re-operationalise FSS (Licensing and Registration) Amendment Regulations 2020 from March 27th 2021,” reads the direction.

The regulation was related to testing, inspection and appointment of food safety supervisors for food businesses.

Under these regulations the food businesses were asked to maintain a system of control to ensure quality of the production by means of specific plan of testing to comply with the relevant regulations or standards.

These regulations also lay rules for periodic inspection and audit of the food businesses. Under these regulations the commissioners of food safety shall draw plans for periodic inspection of food businesses in their respective jurisdiction based on risk assessment. Also, according to the regulations, the FSSAI Central Advisory Committee can approve a checklist for the inspection for different kinds of food businesses.

Further, the food businesses were also required to obtain hygiene ratings for themselves, which will be different from the audit.

Under these regulations, the food businesses should ensure appointment of a food safety supervisor, who will ensure training of food handlers involved in food making of the food product. The FBOs were asked to comply with these regulations with immediate effect. However, the enforcement related to these regulations would only be done after the publishing of these regulations in the official Gazette of India.

These regulations were initially operationalised from March 27 to September 27, 2020.