

Relief for FBOs as FSSAI decides to extend validity of orders till Dec 31

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Giving relief to FBOs in the country, the FSSAI, through an order, has decided to extend the validity of certain orders until December 31, 2020.

This order includes processing of FSSAI licence/ registration applications by e-inspections and allowing FBOs (Food Business Operators) to operate their food businesses temporarily on the basis of application for licence/registration during the period of lockdown.

The order says, “FSSAI has issued directions emphasising post- licence inspection instead of pre-licence/registration inspection due to limited manpower and to avoid undue delays in sanctioning licences. However, in certain cases, the licensing/registering authorities in particular of high risk food categories, decide to have pre-licence inspection. Since, physical inspection is not possible, they have decided to conduct e-inspections and it will avoid undue delay in processing and granting of licences/registration by licensing authorities.”

Further, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has decided to extend the date of submission of Annual Returns (Form D1) for FY 2019-20 and Half Yearly Returns (Form D2) for October 2019 to March 2020 and April 2020 to September 2020 by FSSAI licensed food businesses involved in manufacturing/ processing and importing of food products till December 31, 2020.

While talking about this move by FSSAI, Joshna Joseph, quality executive officer, Candor Foods, said, “As we all know due to this pandemic affecting all types of businesses, many people have lost their daily living. By giving relaxations to FBOs, FSSAI has taken a very good step to support the FBOs. Furthermore, FSSAI is also providing FoSTaC training regarding handling food during Covid-19 outbreak to all the food handlers to provide safe food and proper awareness.”

Joseph added, “FSSAI should also consider giving a particular time period to complete the pending 6 monthly product testing to be done as per requirement which were scheduled by the FBOs during the lockdown and were not able to complete because of the lockdown.”