



FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS
AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India



Mobile Food Testing Laboratory

FOOD SAFETY ON WHEELS

Scheme Guidelines

2017

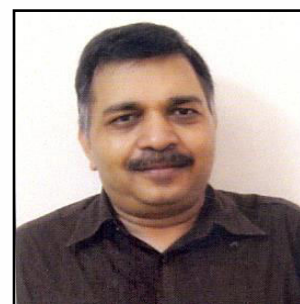
PREFACE

Testing of food to instil confidence amongst consumers that food is safe to eat is important part of the food safety ecosystem. However, number and spread of food testing labs in the country is grossly inadequate. While, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is working towards having more food testing labs both in the public as well as private sector, it has also initiated a scheme to provide mobile units for food testing to reach out to consumers through as many touch points as possible.

These mobile units are called “*Food Safety on Wheels*”. Apart from conducting simple tests for common adulterants in milk, water, edible oil and other items of food of daily consumption, these mobile units would also be used for awareness building around food safety, hygiene and promoting healthy eating habits in citizens at large and for conducting training and certification programme for food handlers and supervisors in food businesses, particularly petty food businesses. In addition, these mobile units would help the field functionaries in the States to enhance their outreach and conduct surveillance activities even in far-flung areas.

It is hoped that with passage of time, services provided through these mobile units, ‘*Food Safety on Wheels*’ would become popular amongst all stakeholders, namely, the citizens, the consumers, the food businesses and the field functionaries of the Food Safety Departments in the States. This would help to bring about a paradigm shift in food safety ecosystem in the country.

18 August, 2017
New Delhi



Pawan Agarwal
Chief Executive Officer
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

1. Introduction

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a Statutory Authority, established under the Food Safety and Standard Act 2006, for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

Food testing is an important part to ensure food safety through surveillance and enforcement. Accordingly, a Central Sector Scheme titled “Strengthening of Food Testing System” in the country including provision of mobile food testing laboratories was launched during 2016-17. The scheme inter alia envisaged establishment of a network of Mobile Food Testing Laboratory (MFTL), referred to as “Food Safety on Wheels”, throughout the country. The scheme envisaged establishment of 62 MFTLs (One for every 20 districts in the State, with at least one Mobile lab in each State/UT. District wise calendar of 15 days for each MFTL would be worked out by the nodal officer in-charge in the State/UT.

2. Food Safety on Wheels (FSW)

The MFTL referred to as “Food Safety on wheels” (FSW) is a multipurpose vehicle which will help in dissemination of information and act as a platform for getting food safety training and food testing. It can perform 3 key activities:

- i. Testing:** Factors like rising inflation rate and competitive market strategies has led many food processors to get involved in malpractices like using inferior quality raw materials or adulterate the food products providing unsafe, impure and unwholesome food to the consumers. These adulterated foods can have adverse effect on human health. Increasing instances of food adulteration in the country necessitates testing of these adulterants for the health and safety of the people. FSW is fully functional mobile laboratory, equipped with basic infrastructure for quick qualitative testing for detection of adulteration in various food commodities which can ascertain the presence or absence of specific adulterants in food sample.
- ii. Training:** Food businesses need to be trained on various procedures and best practices to be followed to ensure food safety and hygiene. FSW will become a platform for training of food businesses ensuring the widest outreach of the training program, especially in villages, towns, remote areas. This will help in reaching out to unorganised sector involved in street food vending, catering, retail and distribution, storage and transport, manufacturing, bakery,

oil, packaged water, fish and seafood, meat and poultry, milk and milk products, and others along with organized food businesses.

- iii. Awareness:** Simple and easy steps can be inculcated in our daily routine to make sure that safe and nutritious food becomes a way of life. To ensure a sustainable model, FSSAI has adopted a 360* approach for citizen guidance and bring about a behavioural change in every sphere - @home, school, workplace or eating out. FSW will help in consumer education through interactive media as well as through distribution of flyers and booklets.

3. Objectives/Functions

FSW would execute the functions of testing including surveillance, training and creating awareness regarding the food safety in remote areas of the State, among large public congregations, schools and consumer organisations. FSW can also be used to transport samples picked from remote areas to the nearest food testing laboratory. Education of the consumers in various aspects of food safety laws and common hygiene practices through the utilization of mobile food testing labs can help in overall goal of supply of safe and wholesome food to the country. FSW would provide on the spot test facilities for qualitative adulteration of common food items like ghee, milk, khoya, sweets, edible oil, non-permitted food colours in various foods like namkeens, spices, prepared foods etc. Testing for common adulterants can instil confidence in the local population while strengthening the hands of enforcement machinery by screening large number of samples for common adulterants. The available data can then be used to carry out enforcement activity in a targeted manner.

4. General Principles for Scheme implementation

Mobile labs would be operated by the respective State/UTs Governments or their agencies/NGOs/ Trusts/Societies or even by established and well-functioning NABL/FSSAI accredited food testing laboratories as decided by the State/UT. Grahak Suvidha Kendras established by Ministry of Consumer Affairs could also be utilised for this purpose.

FSSAI would provide to the States/UTs (i) fully functional FSW (fabricated vehicle with fixtures& fittings, furniture and equipments) costing about Rs. 30 lakh; and, (ii) a recurring grant of Rs. 5 lakh per year towards Petro-oil-lubricants (POLs) and other consumables during the period of scheme implementation.

The States/UTs would provide (i) requisite manpower {i.e., Technical Officer (One), Analyst (one), Driver (one) and Attendant (One)} for each Mobile lab and would confirm that they are having dedicated manpower for operation of FSW effectively and efficiently; (ii) accounts details for transferring the recurring grant (iii) identify the implementation agency; and (iv) details of nodal officer and location of the FSW.

The staff deployed in FSW by the State/UT should possess necessary qualification & experience. However, following are suggested in this regard-

- (i) Technical Officer should possess a Master's degree in Chemistry or Biochemistry or microbiology or Dairy Chemistry or Food Technology, Food and Nutrition or holds Bachelor of Technology in Dairy/Oil or holds degree in Veterinary Sciences from a university or any other equivalent qualification recognized and notified by the Central government for such purposes with at least one-year experience.
- (ii) Analyst should be a Science graduate with at least 2 years of practical experience or a Master's degree in Chemistry or Biochemistry or microbiology or Dairy Chemistry or Food Technology, Food and Nutrition or holds Bachelor of Technology in Dairy/Oil or holds degree in Veterinary Sciences from a university or any other equivalent qualification recognized and notified by the Central government for such purposes.
- (iii) Assistant/Attendant should be atleast Intermediate or above with Science as a main subject.
- (iv) Driver should be atleast Matriculate or above qualification with a valid commercial Driving License.

The States and/or the implementing agency would be required to enter into an MOU with FSSAI for operation and maintenance of FSW.

5. Role, Responsibilities and activities to be undertaken by operating agency

The organizations operating FSW would undertake following activities:

- i. All the operations from receiving/ collecting of sample to analysis through to generation of result, preparation of report and providing the results.
- ii. Registration of samples and creation of a separate inventory in a register. A nominal fee as decided by the state can be charged. A receipt towards fee has to be provided and also a copy kept for record.

- iii.** To charge fee as per the norms prescribed by the authorizing department (State FDA). No excess fee other than the prescribed fee will be permitted. Any such action found will be treated as breach of the contract.
- iv.** To carry out the testing as per the procedures laid out in the FSSAI testing manual or as per procedures written in the testing kits provided by the dealers or methods/ procedures provided by the state FDA. Any deviation will not be permitted.
- v.** Maintain all the relevant records in the form of registers and files. Some general records to be maintained are (and not restricted to):
 - a.** Sample Inventory Register (SIR) – This will contain the information about the type/name and date of the sample received, Name and address of the customer/ organisation who gave the sample for analysis, Fee received, Signature of the sample provider.
 - b.** Training and Coding register (TCR) – This will contain the code number allotted to the sample, location of sample before & after testing, Analyst name, date and time allotted.
 - c.** Laboratory Data Register (LDR) – This will contain Sample testing record from code number of sample, date wise observations/ readings from equipments/ volumetric analysis, calculations etc.,
 - d.** Test Report Register (TRR) - Record of results in the form of Result sheets, samples wise has to be maintained. Format of result sheet will be provided by the state FDA.
 - e.** Inventory of Consumables - Register related to consumption of chemicals, glass wares, plastic wares and other consumables like stationary etc.
- vi.** Create awareness among the people about food safety and food adulteration along with the collection of samples. Besides this, FSW may also receive samples directly from Consumers, organizations, NGO's, individuals, extension agencies etc. The organization would also act as a mobile education unit to popularize food testing and build a trust amongst the consumers about food safety and hygiene.
- vii.** Maintenance of the vehicle, equipments/ machinery and other accessories present in the FSW.
- viii.** Refilling of the POL's and other consumables for smooth day to day functioning of FSW.

- ix. Submit a consolidated monthly progress report in the following proforma to the State FDA and FSSAI (preferably in soft copy at email ID: labs@fssai.gov.in)-

Progress for the month of _____						
State: _____			FSWRegn. No. _____			
S.No.	Food Category	Food Product	No.of Samples analysed	Test results		Fee collected (in INR)
				Pass	Fail	

- x. Submit Utilization Certificate as per GFR; Audit Report, if any; and a consolidated Annual Progress Report including the fee collected and expenditure incurred in operation of FSW, to FSSAI through State FDA for creating a database

6. Details of Vendor

FSSAI has awarded the contract to M/s Asian Scientific Industries (Delhi) for body building, interior fabrication of FSW, fixtures/furniture and supply, installation and commissioning of equipments. The office of the firm is located at 6 UA/3, Jawahar Nagar, Delhi-110007. Dr.RatikKholi and/or Shri R.K. Kohli, Managing Partners may be contacted at Landline No.011-23856685, Mobile No.(s) 09999368809 (Dr Ratik), 09810313685 (Mr RK Kohli) and email id - asian_industries1959@yahoo.in, for any matter related to FSW including maintenance, service schedule of the vehicle/equipment, etc.



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