

File No. T-15012/1/2022-Training-FSSAI (Computer No: 4222)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)
Training Division
2nd Floor, MMU building, Mata Sundari Road, New Delhi- 110002

Dated 05th March, 2024

NOTICE

Subject: De-Empanelment of Training Partner M/s Bentogreen Skills Pvt. Ltd. (TPBEN196) and Mr. Virendra Kumar Awasthi (Trainer ID: TR001255 and Assessor ID: ASBE186443) from FoSTaC Programme for a period of two years-Reg.

This notice serves as a formal communication regarding the de-empanelment of Bentogreen Skills Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Virendra Kumar Awasthi (Trainer ID: TR001255 and Assessor ID: ASBE186443) from the Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) Programme, effective immediately, for a period of two years.

2. This decision follows a thorough review of complaints received against the Training Partner Bentogreen Skills Pvt. Ltd.(TP ID: TPBEN196) who have conducted four batches of FoSTaC trainings assigning Mr. Virendra Kumar Awasthi as Trainer (who has not empaneled under the concerned course) instead of the designated trainer. In this regard, show cause notices were issued on 9th January, 2024 to the Training Partner and 1st February 2024 to Mr. Virendra Kumar Awasthi.

3. Subsequently, after the review of the responses received from both parties, it has been decided by the Competent Authority to de-empanel M/s Bentogreen Skills Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Virendra Kumar Awasthi from FoSTaC Programme since presented arguments against the show cause notices were deemed unconvincing and insufficient to establish innocence in the following matters:

- i. **Failure to submit a convincing response to the Show Cause Notices:** Both Bentogreen Skills Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Virendra Kumar Awasthi failed to provide a satisfactory explanation for the allegations mentioned in the notices and instead requested exemption.
- ii. **Engaging in malpractices:** It is evident that both the training partner and Mr. Virendra Kumar Awasthi were aware of the FoSTaC program guidelines yet engaged in malpractices during the delivery of multiple training batches.
- iii. **Issuing unauthorized FoSTaC certificates:** The issuance of certificates by an unauthorized trainer raises serious concerns about the integrity of both the training partner and the assessor.
- iv. **Adversely affecting FSSAI's image:** Both parties' actions have created a negative perception of the FoSTaC program, implying the possibility of obtaining FSS certificates without adhering to prescribed regulations.

- v. **Unlawful use of the FoSTaC portal:** Both parties engaged in the unauthorized use of the FoSTaC portal, further compromising the program's integrity.
4. Considering the aforementioned points, the following actions are taken:
- a) **De-empanelment of TP M/s Bentogreen Skills Pvt. Ltd. for a period of two years under the FoSTaC program:** This action is based on the following:
 - i. Administering training sessions using a substitute trainer without authorization.
 - ii. Compelling Mr. Virendra Kumar Awasthi, an unauthorized individual, to provide training.
 - iii. Unlawful use of the FoSTaC portal.
 - b) **De-empanelment of Mr. Virendra Kumar Awasthi as a Trainer and Assessor for a period of two years under the FoSTaC program:** This action is based on the following:
 - i. Conducting training without possessing the designated and qualified trainer status for the FoSTaC Basic Retail and Distribution course.
 - ii. Failing to report the malpractices committed by the training partner to the FSSAI Training Division.
 - iii. Unlawful use of the FoSTaC portal.
5. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(Virendra Singh Shekhawat)
Manager (Training)

Copy to:

1. All Regional Directors-FSSAI-For information.
2. All State/UT FDAs- For further necessary action, if any.
3. IT division with a request to upload on the FSSAI website for wider circulation.