

**Minutes of the 40th meeting of the Food Authority held on September 29, 2022 at
15:00 hrs through physical cum virtual mode**

The fortieth meeting of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was held at 3.00 pm on 29th September, 2022 through physical cum virtual platform at Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Room No. 155, A-Wing, Committee Room, 1st Floor, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Chairperson, FSSAI. The list of participants is at **Annexure -1**.

Chairperson welcomed the members of newly constituted Food Authority followed by brief introduction of the members. Thereafter, Shri S. Gopalakrishnan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), FSSAI expressed gratitude on behalf of the Authority to Shri Arun Singhal, the former CEO for bringing transparency and modernization in the functioning of FSSAI.

Item No.	Description
I	Confirmation of minutes of 39th meeting held on 13/07/2022
	With regard to the comments received on agenda item 1.4 and 3.4, it was observed that the one comment on item 1.4 is editorial and on the item 3.4 it was clarified that the matter has been suitably addressed in the minutes and no further modification is required. With these observations, the minutes of the 39 th meeting held on 13 th July, 2022 were adopted.
II	Action Taken Report of 39th meeting
	The Action Taken Report was noted by the Authority, with update on the agenda items 2.2 and 2.3.
III	CEO's Report (to be presented during the meeting)
	CEO, FSSAI in his report, simultaneously tabled during the meeting, highlighted the action taken and developments since the last meeting of the Authority. He apprised the members about the work on standards setting; various e-portals to increase transparency and ease of doing business; training and capacity building programmes; various IEC activities viz. FSSAI foundation day, eat right mela etc. and development in Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling (FoPNL). He also apprised about the proposal on celebration of International Day of Millets at the end of this year. Chairperson suggested the Authority to disseminate the information regarding applications that can be submitted by experts through portal for effective contribution in the Scientific Panels of FSSAI so as to accommodate more domain knowledge experts.



	Authority took note of the CEO's report. The detailed report is placed at Annexure-2.
40.1	FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE
1	Extension of duration of the Scheme of MoU between FSSAI and States/UTs for Strengthening of Food Safety Eco-system in the Country
	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Head (RCD) briefed the agenda regarding the extension of current Scheme of MoU with States/UTs for another period of three years till 2025-2026.</p> <p>Chairperson, sought views or concerns on the unspent fund from the States/UTs especially from the State Food Safety Commissioners. The majority of the concerns were related to Model Code of Conduct during elections, financial approval by the State authorities, specification in GeM Portal and manpower shortage. With regard to Model Code of Conduct, Chairperson apprised that there are written instructions about the continuation of the scheme initiated before the Model Code of Conduct without the involvement of local fanfare. Further, he suggested to follow up continuously with administrative and financial authorities along with the GeM helpline for effective implementation of the scheme.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>With the above deliberations, the Authority approved the agenda, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point</p> <p>Regulatory compliance division to take necessary action.</p>
2	Recognition of agencies under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2018
	The Authority considered and ratified the agenda, as placed.
3	Minutes of Meeting of Central Advisory Committee (from 26th CAC meeting to 35th CAC meeting)
	<p>The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.</p> <p>However, Chairperson was of the view that henceforth minutes of the CAC meetings shall be placed timely before the Food Authority. While agreeing to the suggestion, it was informed that the decisions taken in these CAC meetings have already been placed as agenda items in the authority meetings for information/ratification.</p>
4	Issuance of licenses in case of Modification applications
	Discussion



	<p>ED (CS) briefed the agenda which would facilitate the ease of doing business by reducing the time frame for issuance of modified licenses, especially in case of standardized low risk food products.</p> <p>Joint Secretary (Food Regulation), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare sought clarification whether this would require any amendment in the extent regulations. In response, it was informed that this is only a modification in the procedure to facilitate food businesses.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>The Authority approved the agenda, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point</p> <p>Regulatory compliance division to take necessary action.</p>
5	Promoting Ease-of-doing Business and helping Start-ups by reducing the initial payment towards license application to Rs. 1000
	<p>Discussion</p> <p>One member requested to waive off GST on licensing application fee. Chairperson apprised that GST will be applicable, however, suggestions in this regard can be submitted to Ministry of Finance for their consideration during the time of review.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>The Authority approved the agenda, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point</p> <p>Regulatory compliance division to take necessary action.</p>
6	Proposal regarding introduction of new Kind of Business (KoB) and inspection checklist for 'Fish and fish products' under FoSCoS
	<p>Discussion</p> <p>One member sought clarification regarding applicability of the fees on modification to the existing license. In response, Chairperson suggested to take up the matter internally before taking a final view in this regard.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>With the above suggestion, the Authority approved the agenda, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point</p> <p>Regulatory compliance division to take necessary action.</p>
40.2	IMPORT



A	Agenda Items for ratification by Food Authority
1	Import of Clove Stem
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
2	Rectifiable labelling information for imported food consignments
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
3	Requirement of Health Certificate accompanied with the import of food consignments
	<p>Discussion and Decision</p> <p>One member sought clarification that which competent authority of the exporting country is authorized to issue health certificate that can be accepted by India. In response, Director (TICD) informed that the same depends upon the legal frame work of the exporting country without any conflict of interest.</p> <p>She further requested to provide list of such competent authorities. Chairperson, mentioned that this is beyond the mandate of FSSAI, however, FSSAI may connect Department of Commerce with FBOs for facilitation.</p> <p>The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.</p>
4	Clarification regarding FSSAI's requirement of AGMARK certification in case of imported food products
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
5	Notification of Authorised officers at Food Import Entry Points
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
B	Agenda Item for information of Food Authority
1	Sampling and analysis of imported food articles with microbial testing requirements
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
40.3	GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
1	FSSAI's Annual Report for the year 2021-22
2	Annual Accounts for FY 2021-2022
3	Financial Regulation of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
4	Approval for expenditure from Internal receipts
	The Authority approved the agenda, as proposed.



5	Amendment in Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Salary, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of officers and Employees) Regulations, 2013
	The Authority approved the agenda in principle. However, Chairperson mentioned that the specific details with respect to medical and housing facilities should be submitted for further examination by the administrative ministry. Action Point Human Resource division to take necessary action.
40.4	FOOD TESTING SURVEILLANCE
1	Ratification of Notification/ Recognition/ Discontinuation of Food Testing Laboratories & Notices/ Order issued
	Chairperson suggested to have a strategic plan/ milestone with respect to mandatory NABL-FSSAI integrated assessment of the laboratories through physical meeting at regional level involving three to four States and its functionaries including Food Safety Commissioner, Lab Head etc. and also converse with all respective senior level officers. The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
2	Information on Food Safety on Wheels
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
3	Information on PAN India Surveillance of Food Products
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
4	Information on Capacity Building Programs
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
	SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS
40.IV.1	Transfer Policy Guidelines for Employees of Foods Safety and Standards Authority of India
	The Authority approved the agenda, as proposed. Action Point Human Resource division to take necessary action.
40.IV.2	Registration of high risk category foreign food manufacturing facility
	Discussion



	<p>Director (TICD) briefed the agenda and informed about the approach adopted globally.</p> <p>The Authority expressed concern for allowing registration without inspection of processing facilities for high risk category as other developed countries has mandatory inspection. Chairperson was of the view that the option for inspection of manufacturing process must be kept open and the specific granularity for triggering such inspection can be deliberated.</p> <p>One member suggested to have green channel for the importers who continuously complies with the provisions specified in the food safety and standards regulation and have the history of compliance for several years as is done by few other countries. Chairperson opined to obtain information on green channel available globally for further deliberation. It was also suggested to deliberate the matter internally before taking final decision.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>With the above observations/suggestions, the Authority approved the proposal in principle.</p> <p>Action Point</p> <p>Trade and International Cooperation division to take necessary action.</p>
40.IV.3	Operationalization of standards/ regulations and directions issued by FSSAI
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairperson and all the participants.

This has approval of the Chairperson, FSSAI.



Chief Executive Officer

Annexure-1**List of Participants****A. Members of the Food Authority (ex-officio)**

1. Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare;
2. Shri K. R. Saji Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Legislative Department [**virtually attended**];
3. Sh. Kuntal Sensarma, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Food Processing Industries [**virtually attended**];
4. Shri Neeraj Arora, Deputy Director, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, (for Smt. Alka Nangia Arora, Joint Secretary) [**virtually attended**];

B. Part time Members of the Food Authority:

2. Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Director, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru;
3. Shri Kanwal Singh Chauhan, Farmer, Aterna, Distt. Sonapat, Haryana;
4. Shri Pramod Kumar Choudhary, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh;
5. Smt. Jyoti J. Sardesai, Director, FDA and Commissioner Food Safety, Goa;
6. Sh. Neeraj Kumar, Director Health, Safety & Regulation, Himachal Pradesh;
7. Shri Abhijit Baruah, Commissioner of Food Safety and Drugs Administration, Assam;
8. Sh. Yashpal Garg, Commissioner of Food Safety, Chandigarh [**virtually attended**];
9. Ms. Swati Ravindra Paradkar, President, Shri Mahila Griha Udyog, Lijjat papad, Mumbai, Maharashtra [**virtually attended**];
10. Ms. Shreya Pandey, All India Food Processors' Association, New Delhi [**virtually attended**];

C. Officers of the FSSAI

1. Shri Rajeev Kumar Jain, Executive Director (Executive Director (HR, Finance & Accounts))
2. Ms. Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director (SBCD/Regulatory Compliance);
3. Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Advisor (QA/S&S);
4. Shri Raj Singh, Head (GA);
5. Shri R K Mittal, Head (Regulatory Compliance);
6. Shri Sunil Bakshi, Head (Regulations);
7. Dr. Amit Sharma, Director (Trade and IC);
8. Cdr. Sharad Aggarwal, Director (Finance and Accounts);
9. Shri Anil Mehta, Director (Regulatory Compliance) [**virtually attended**];
9. Sh. Rakesh Kumar, Director (QA);
10. Ms. Sweety Bchera, Director (Quality Assurance); and
11. Ms. Lily Prasad, Chief Technology Officer.

Annexure-II

40th Meeting of Food Authority on 29.09.2022 CEO's Detailed Report- (as tabled)

1. FOOD STANDARDS/REGULATIONS

1.1 Scientific Committee, Scientific Panel and the Work on Standard Setting after the 39th Food Authority meeting held on 13.07.2022

Certain Scientific Panels met during the period and made significant contributions in arriving at draft and final standards and suggestions on issues of food safety. Various recommendations made by these panels would be deliberated in the Scientific Committee of the FSSAI which comprises the Chairperson's of all Scientific Panels as well as independent eminent scientists. The following Scientific Panels met during the period:

SP. No.	Name of Scientific Panel(s)	Meeting No.	Date
SP-01	Food additives, Flavourings, Processing aids & Materials in contact with food	54	08.08.2022
SP-05	Functional foods, Nutraceuticals, Dietetic Products and Other similar products	60	07.09.2022
SP-07	Contaminants in the Food Chain	31	22.07.2022
SP-08	Labelling and Claims/Advertisements	43	09.09.2022
SP-10	Fish and Fishery Products	25	02.09.2022
SP-11	Cereals, Pulses & Legumes and their products (including Bakery)	34	23.08.2022
SP-12	Fruits & Vegetables	26	22.08.2022
SP-14	Milk & Milk Products	20	26.08.2022
SP-15	Oils &Fats	26	01.09.2022
SP-17	Water & Beverages		
SP-	Spices and Culinary Herbs	15	14.07.2022

19			2
SP-21	Alcoholic Beverages	09	30.08.2022
			2

1.2 FSSAI has taken various technology based interventions to increase transparency in dealing with public/other stakeholders and efficient utilization of resources.

(i) **ePAAS** – electronic Product & Claim Approval Application System': An online portal for submission of applications for obtaining approval of non - specified food and food ingredients / claims. It is a digital system developed by FSSAI in order to facilitate the Product and Claim Approval processing and reduce the amount of time and paper work, clearly contributing to ease of doing business. This also enhances and brings transparency into seeking clarification and resolution of the issues. Further, it will help the applicant to apply and track the status online through the portal.

(ii) **SPaCe – MAP** Scientific Panel and Committee Membership Application Portal: An online portal for submission of application for membership in the Scientific Committee & various Scientific Panels.

1.3 Further, the Search cum Selection Committee (SSC) has been constituted for selection of members of the Scientific Committee & Scientific Panels. The composition is as below;

Chairperson

- i. Prof. S. Ayyappan, Former Secretary, DARE & DG – ICAR; Chairperson – KSTA, Bengaluru and current Chairperson of FSSAI's SC

Members

- ii. Prof. C Vasudevappa, Vice-chancellor – NIFTEM & Member of FSSAI's SC
- iii. Dr. Sridevi A Singh, Director, CSIR – CFTRI & Member of the Food Authority
- iv. Prof. Alok Dhawan, Director, Centre of Bio-Medical Research (CBMR) & Member of FSSAI's SC
- v. Advisor (S&S), FSSAI, Ex-Officio member

1.4 Seven amendment regulations, namely, i) Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Second Amendment Regulations, 2022; ii) Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) First Amendment Regulations, 2022; iii) Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) First Amendment Regulations, 2022; iv) Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) First Amendment Regulations, 2022; v) Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Second Amendment Regulations, 2022; vi) Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) First Amendment Regulations, 2022 and vii) Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2022 have been notified for enforcement.

Additionally, two draft regulations, namely, i) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Transaction of Business at its meetings) Amendment Regulations, 2022; and ii) Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Amendment Regulations, 2022 have been published in the Gazette of India for inviting comments and suggestions from stakeholders.

2. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

It is a matter of great pleasure that training of Food Safety Supervisor under ambitious FoSTaC Training Programme is about to cross an important milestone of 1 million shortly. Since last authority meeting about 46,836 food handlers have been trained through 1354 training events.

3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

3.1 Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS):

1. GST implementation for central license, registration application and annual return penalty.
2. FoSCoRIS app with the new technology stack (Flutter). Flutter is a powerful mobile framework that enables developers to build cross-platform apps for either iOS or Android

3.2 Food Import Clearance System (FICS):

1. GST implementation and Tax invoice generation.

3.3 Indian Food Laboratory Network (INFoLNET)

INFoLNeT 2.0

1. FICS and Infolnet Integration - The API shared with FICS team, which will provide lab id, lab name and other details such as respective categories and sub-categories.
2. Implementation of Digital Signature on Lab Reports.

Food Safety on Wheels

1. The Dashboard of FSW portal will show the total no. of FSWs registered by all the States/UTs and total no. of testing, awareness and training conducted through these FSWs.

2. A notice board is created on the home page, wherein States shall upload the advance tour program of the vehicles with details of markets/schools/other public places- This will help General public and FBOs to plan in advance and take benefit from the services of FSW.

ePAAS

1. GST implementation and Tax invoice generation.

State Food Testing Laboratories

1. Portal ready for official launch.

3.4 Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) Training Portal:

1. FOSTAC new portal was launched in the month of August 2022 with new features like Digital Signature on the certificate, Attendance and Assessment documents upload and Training Video upload.

3.5 Food Safety Mitra :

1. GST implementation and Tax invoice generation.

3.6 Eat Right India Initiatives:

1. Eat Right Station portal made live
2. Clean street food hub was made live
3. Eat Right Bhog was made live

3.7 Other Portals

1. Space Map Portal was launched in the month of September 2022. This portal is intended for applicants for the membership under Scientific Committee and various Scientific Panels.

<https://spacemap.fssai.gov.in/>

2. Auto renewal of hygiene rating certificate whenever the FBO license got renewal in FosCos application.
<https://hygiene.fssai.gov.in/>

3. Application to receive the applicant's documents for verification regarding various recruitments in FSSAI.

<https://sites.fssai.gov.in/recruitmentsdocs>

4. FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE

4.1 Status on Front-of-Pack Nutritional Labelling:

FSSAI has draft notified provisions for Front-of-pack labelling under the draft FSS (Labelling and Display) Amendment Regulations, 2022 in September, 2022 after holding detailed consultations with the industry associations and consumer organisations and backed by survey conducted on a national level by IIM, Ahmedabad in over 20000 participants. The draft is available on FSSAI's website for seeking stakeholders' comments.

4.2 Display of Information in Food Service Establishments-Menu Labelling:

The provisions of Menu Labelling has been enforced with effect from **01.07.2022** and is mandated for Food Service Establishments (Includes restaurants, hotels) having Central License (*Turnover of above 20 crores p.a.*) OR having Outlets at ten or more locations and E-Commerce FBOs. In