

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi

PRESS RELEASE

The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006) will come into force with effect from 5th August, 2011. The enabling Rules and Regulations have been notified and shall become effect from the date.

2. The existing Acts, orders, rules, regulations, as under will get repealed simultaneously:-

- i. Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954
- ii. Fruit Product Order(FPO), 1955
- iii. Solvent Extracted Oil, De-oiled Meal and Edible Flour (control) order, 1967
- iv. Meat Food Products Order 1973
- v. Edible Oils Packing, 1998
- vi. Vegetable Oil Products Order, 1988
- vii. Milk and Milk Product Amendment Regulations- 2009 (MMPR-09) Division (MMPO, 1992 has been renamed as MMPR, 2009)

3. The Food Safety Act, 2006, the rules regulations thereof, consolidates laws relating to Food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying 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 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

4. The new law puts in place a unified structure for all food safety related matters in the form of FSSAI at the Centre and Commissioners of Food Safety at the State level. Other new functionaries defined by the statute are designated officer at the district level, Food Safety Officer at cutting age level, Adjudicating Officer, Special Courts and Appellate Tribunal for speedy disposal of cases.

5. Under the new law, the food business operators, a term denoting all businesses that deal with food in any manner, are responsible for supply of safe food to the consumers. The emphasis is on 'food safety' that focuses on the entire food chain and not just the final product as was the case under the PFA Act. The food testing laboratories in the country will be upgraded to NABL

standards besides drafting the services of private NABL accredited lab for testing food samples. The new regulatory framework emphasises on transparency and accountability besides aiming at achieving high degree of consumer's confidence in quality and safety of food. It also empowers consumers to take samples and get it tested, and in case of samples being found adulterated, prosecution can be launched by the Designated Officer. For the first time, the new law also covers Nutraceuticals, health food, food supplement, functional food etc. Designated Officer has to dispose off the application for license within 02 months from the date of application. Where an existing establishment for starting food licenses is found deficient, the Designated Officer has to give improvement notice before launching any prosecution.

6. FSSAI has been following up with the State/UT Governments regarding preparatory action to be taken for the implementation of the Act. The State Governments have taken steps for smooth transition from the PFA Act to the FSS Act with effect from 5th August, 2011 which will usher in a new era of food safety in the country.