



Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

IMPORTS CLEARANCE PROCEDURE



भारतीय खाद्य संरक्षा एवं मानक प्राधिकरण

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India



INTRODUCTION

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standard (FSS) Act, 2006 as a statutory body for laying down science based standards for articles of food and regulating manufacturing, processing, distribution, sale and import of food so as to ensure safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

CHAPTER V of FSS ACT,2006 (PROVISIONS RELATING TO IMPORT)

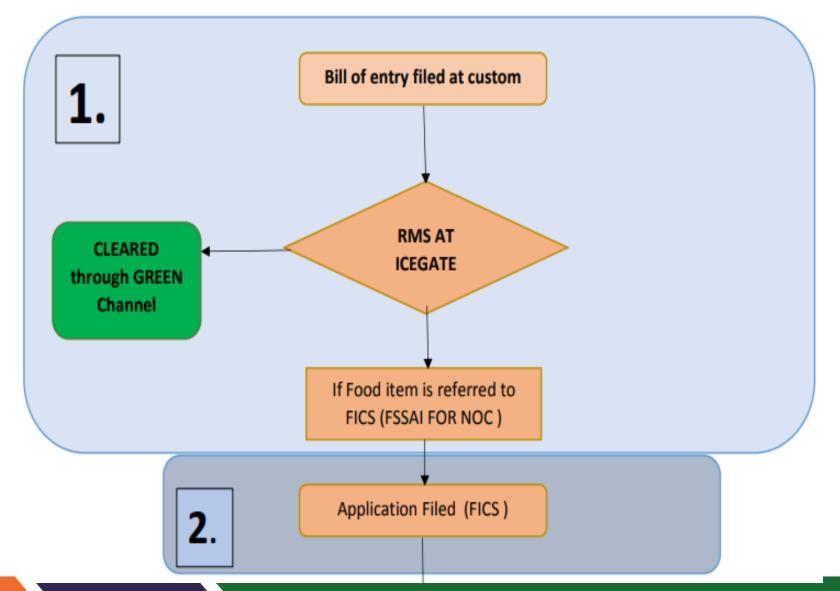


Section 25 of The FSS Act, 2006 Provided that :

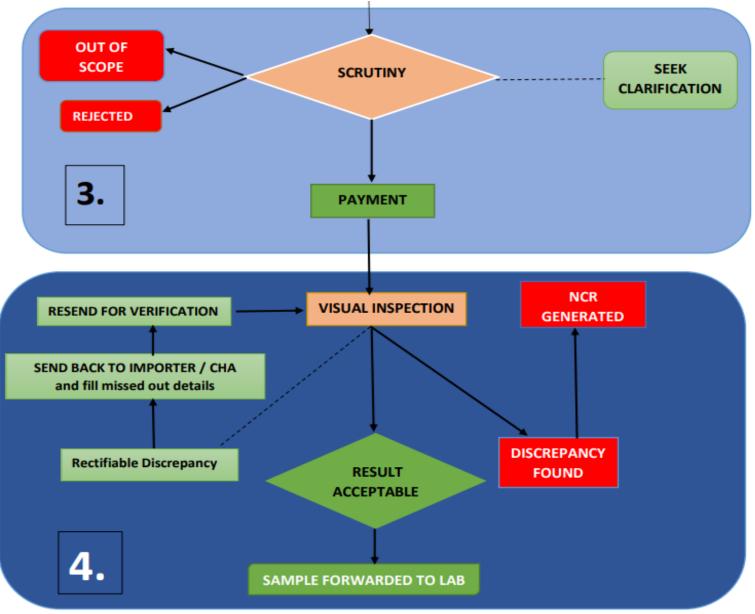
- 1) No person shall import into India –
- any unsafe or misbranded or sub-standard food or food containing extraneous matter;
- any article of food for the import of which a license is required under any Act or rules or regulations, except in accordance with the conditions of the license; and
- any article of food in contravention of any other provision of this Act or of any rule or regulation made there under or any other Act.
- 2) The Central Government shall, while prohibiting, restricting or otherwise regulating import of article of food under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 (22 of 1992), follow the standards laid down by the Food Authority under the provisions of this Act and the Rules and regulations made there under.
- Exercising the power of the act, the central government on the recommendation of the Food authority notified the FSS (Import) Regulations, 2017 on 9th March, 2017.

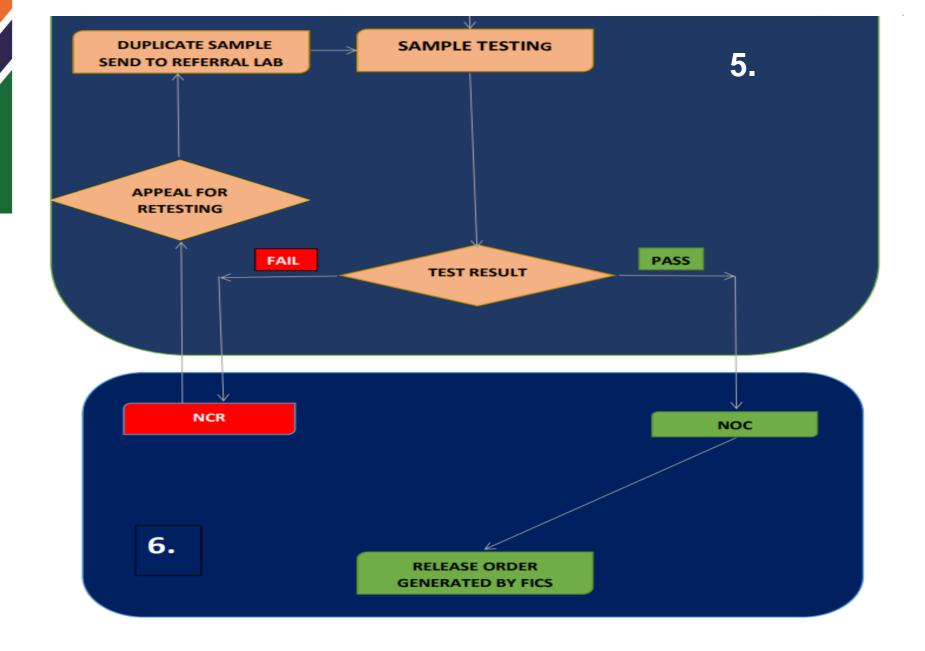


FOOD IMPORT CLEARANCE PROCESS (FLOW CHART)













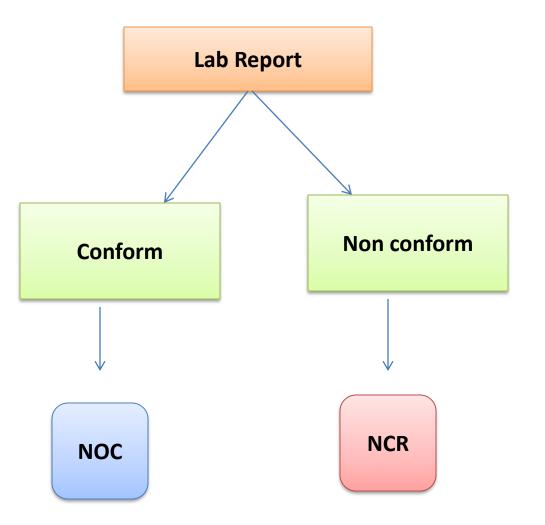
REVIEW PROCESS

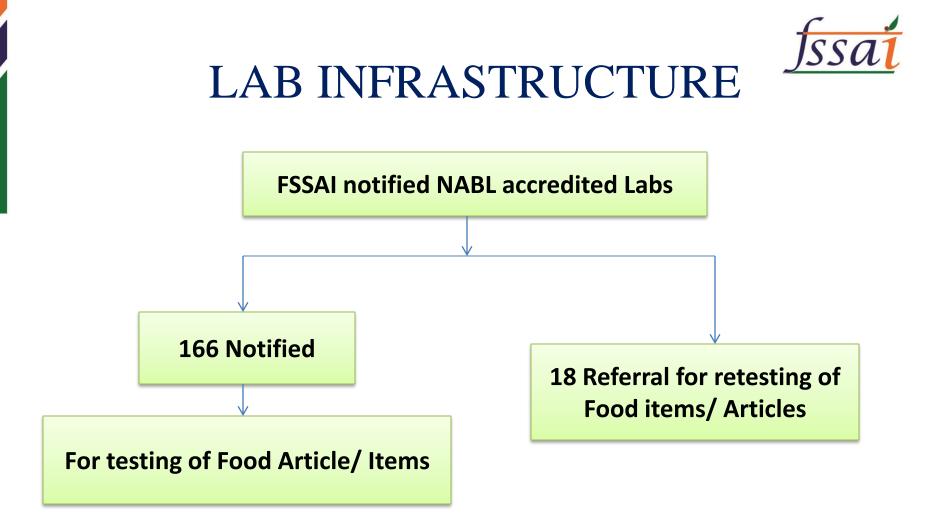
1. <u>First Committee</u>: Chaired by Director (Imports) at FSSAI, HQ, New Delhi- Importer can file review application with grounds of appeal in Form-6 to Director (Imports) against Non Conforming Report issued by Authorised Officer.

2. <u>Apex Committee</u>: Chaired by CEO, FSSAI, HQ, New Delhi- If Importer is not satisfied with decision of first review committee then he can file review application with grounds of appeal in Form-6 of FSS (Import) Regulations, 2017 to CEO, FSSAI.



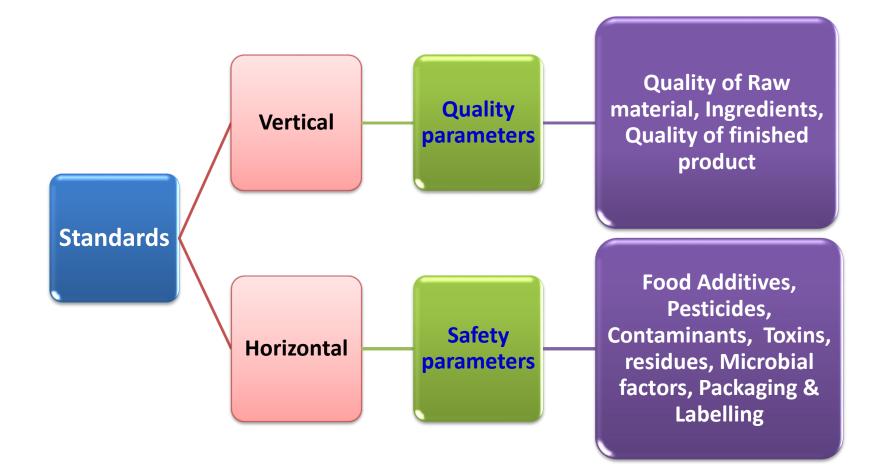
LAB REPORT





Recognition of NABL accredited lab in Bangladesh (for 21 food products) and Bhutan for avoiding re-testing of import samples. **The test analysis certificate issued by them is accepted for food import clearance.**







REGULATIONS



- 1) Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.
- 2) Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011.
- 3) Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labeling) Regulations, 2011.
- 4) Food Safety and Standards (Food or Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Foods for Special Dietary Uses, Foods for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Foods and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016
- 5) Food Safety and Standards (Approval of Non-Specfied Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017
- 6) Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017
- 7) Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018
- 8) Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration)Regulations, 2011.
- 9) Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction for Sale) Regulations, 2011.
- 10) Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and Sample Analysis) Regulations, 2011.
- 11) Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017
- 12) Food Safety and Standards (Food Recall Procedure) Regulations, 2017

Link: http://www.fssai.gov.in/home/fss-legislation/fss-regulations.html



RECTIFIABLE LABELING

- As per FSS (Import) Regulations, 2017 In case of imported packaged food consignments, the following special dispensation on labeling shall be allowed for the rectifiable labeling deficiencies at the custom bound warehouse by affixing a single non detachable sticker or by any other non detachable method next to the principle display panel without altering or masking the original label information in any manner. namely:—
- (a) Name and address of the importer;
- (b) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's Logo and license number,
- (c) Non-Veg or Veg Logo
- (d) Category or sub category along with generic name, nature and composition for proprietary food





SPECIAL CASES

- Import for Personal consumption
- Food imported by Diplomatic Missions
- Import of Food for the purposes of Research and Development
- Import of Food for the purposes of Exhibition and Tasting
- Import of Food for international sports events:



STEPS TAKEN

- Notification of FSS (Import) Regulations on 9th March ,2017.
- Sampling & testing of commingled Cargo of Pulses & Oil.
- Miniature sample for high priced Alcoholic beverages.
- Recognition of NABL accredited lab in Bangladesh and Bhutan for avoiding retesting of import samples.
- The "*Manual for Food Imports*" developed so as to share each process in a more simplified way to all the Stakeholders.
- As per directions dated 13.12.2017, Food Safety and Standards (Import) First Amendment Regulations, 2017 were operationalised wherein it is mentioned that "The Customs shall not clear any article of food unless it has a valid shelf life of not less than sixty percent or three months before expiry whichever is less at the time of import."
- Operationalisation of Draft FSS (Import) Amendment regulations, 2018 related to issuance of PNOC for imported pre-packaged retail food articles.



