

File No. 15(6)2020/FLRS/RCD/FSSAI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(Regulatory Compliance Division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110002

Dated the 31st March, 2020

Order

Subject: Processing of FSSAI License/Registration Applications during the lockdown situations by the way of e-inspections – reg.

The entire country is at present under lockdown due to Covid19 pandemic. Under these circumstances it is not possible to conduct physical inspection of food units by food regulatory authorities. This may result in delay in grant of licenses/registrations where licensing authorities decide to have inspection of food units before considering grant of license/ registration. This needs to be avoided during lockdown period when food services assume utmost importance.

2. FSSAI has from time to time issued directions emphasising post license inspection instead of pre license/registration inspection due to limited manpower and avoid undue delays in sanctioning licenses. However, the licensing/registering authorities may in certain cases particularly of high risk food categories, decide to have pre license inspection. Since during the lockdown period inspection would not be possible, it has been decided to consider e-inspections in place of physical inspection. This step will avoid undue delay in processing and granting of licenses/registrations by Licensing authorities.

3. Accordingly, in cases, where licensing or registering authority decides to conduct inspection prior to grant of FSSAI License/Registration Certificate, the concerned authority may conduct e-inspection of FBO's premise/unit i.e. authority may record the observations by the way of videos or images submitted by the concerned FBO. The mode of submission of videos or images related to inspection during the lockdown situation may be through any possible media available, including live streaming if possible. Upon receiving satisfactory videos or images of the FBO's premise/unit, the licensing/registering authority shall further process the application without any delay. If the facility of downloading of videos or images is available through that media, the concerned authority shall download and keep a copy of these visuals in their electronic device for future reference.

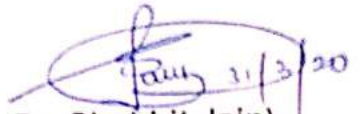
3. It is to be noted that food being the essential commodity, licensing/registering authorities shall make all possible efforts during such situation to process the applications for FSSAI License/Registration for any kind of business without any undue delay. The requirement of inspection should be kept to bare minimum, and such instances should be regularly reviewed by the Commissioners of Food Safety. Further, after restoration of normalcy, the authorities may schedule the inspections of


21/3/20

the FBOs to whom license/registration have been granted during the lockdown situation, if required.

4. These orders shall be in operation during the present lockdown period only. The Commissioners of Food Safety are directed to issue necessary directions to Licensing/Registering authorities for compliance.

5. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority under Section 16(5) of the FSS Act, 2006.


(Dr. Shobhit Jain)

Executive Director (Compliance Strategy)
Email: ed-office@fssai.gov.in

To –

1. Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UT
2. Director of all Regional Offices, FSSAI
3. CITO, FSSAI – for necessary action

For info –

1. PS to Chairperson, FSSAI
2. PS to CEO, FSSAI
3. Head (RCD)