

## INTEGRATED FOOD LAW, ITS MAIN FEATURES AND FUNCTIONS

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India has many laws regulating the food safety and other activities of food industry. The requirement of food regulation may be based on several factors such as whether a country adopts international norms developed by the CAC of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO); good agricultural and manufacturing practices; or a country may also has its own suite of food regulations. Each country regulates food differently and has its own food regulatory framework.

The introduction of integrated food law provides the much required 'one law-one regulator' platform for raising the food safety standards of India to match global standards. Its speedy and effective implementation is quickly warranted to put India onto the global food map. This would require an enabling implementation environment focused on creation of transparency, awareness creation, capacity building, product traceability, developing right infrastructure and extensive R&D capacity so as to match the dynamically changing requirements of food safety and standards.



# FOOD LAWS IN INDIA

The Indian Parliament has passed the *Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006* that overrides all other food related laws such as

- ⦿ The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954
- ⦿ The Fruit Products Order, 1955
- ⦿ The Meat Food Products Order, 1973
- ⦿ The Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947
- ⦿ The Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998
- ⦿ The Solvent Extracted Oil, De oiled Meal, and Edible Flour (Control) Order, 1967
- ⦿ The Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992



## Integration

Generally means combining parts so they work together or form a whole

A systematic coordination of food protection functions

# Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS)

- Jointly developed and implemented surveillance, inspection, and enforcement programs
- Benefits:
  - Increased ability to assess potential risks at domestic food facilities
  - More consistent coverage of these facilities across the entire food supply chain
  - Greater food surveillance through integration of food facility inspection information
  - Improved rapid response capacity and efficiency
- Outcome: **Increased public health protection**

# INTEGRATED FOOD LAW ?

## Main features :

- ✓ Harmonization with international standards such as CODEX and, hence, responsive to international trade requirements
- ✓ Shift from a regulatory regime to self compliance through food safety management systems
- ✓ To lay down scientific standards and ensure availability of safe food for human consumption
- ✓ Single reference point for all issues related to food safety and standards
- ✓ Clear procedures for food recall

# Need of new Food Safety Law

Removal of multiple regulations

To harmonize with international laws

Based on science & risk analysis

Regulatory requirements will be applied consistently & equitably across sectors & groups

Facilitating trade without compromising consumer safety & a larger share in global food trade

Enabling innovation in foods

Healthy nation

*There is a pressing need to not only have integrated food laws, but also to make these more relevant. This has become necessary to save the consumers from any ill-impact of genetically modified food, as well as other kinds of contamination. The government introduced the Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005, in the Lok Sabha during the monsoon session of Parliament.*

## **Food Safety & Standard Act, 2006**

### **An Integrated Food Law**

- **To consolidate/integrate food laws**
- **Establish Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.**



**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was set up in 2008 to lay down scientific standards and ensure availability of safe food for human consumption.**

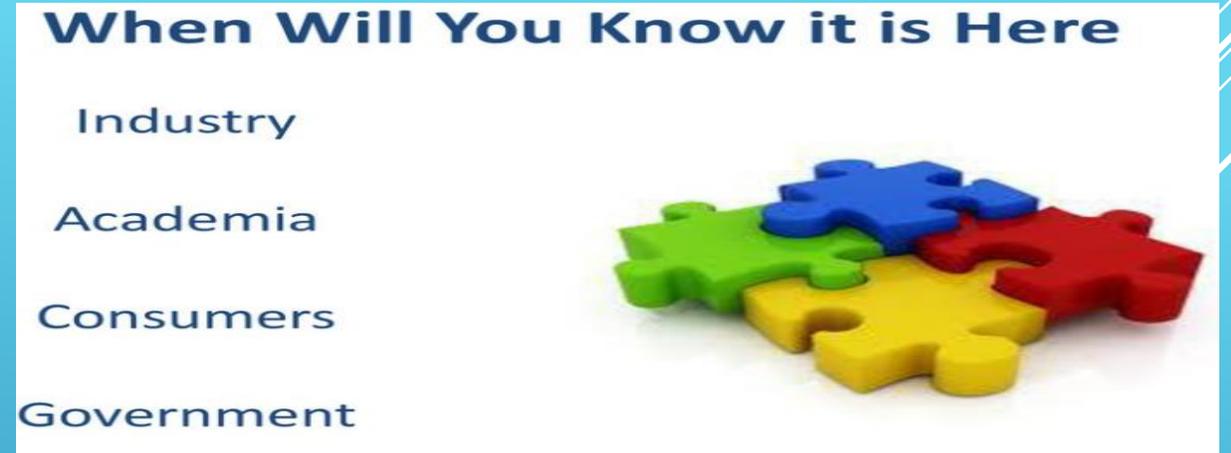


**Food Safety and Standards Act ,2006 - passed by Indian Parliament and notified on 24th August, 2006**

- **Authority Established- in Sept, 2008.**
- **FSS Regulations Notified -3th August, 2011.**
- **New Act operationalised- 5th August,2011.**
- **All Food Business Operators in India to get Licensed/Registered with Food Safety Authority.**

The Food Safety & Standards Act 2006 is Act to consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down 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.

## Main Features of the Law Include



- ❑ Single reference point for all issues related to food safety and standards
- ❑ Harmonization with international standards such as CODEX and, hence, responsive to international trade requirements
- ❑ Responsive to dynamic issues such as genetically modified food
- ❑ Clear procedures for food recall.
- ❑ Shift from a regulatory regime to self compliance through food safety management systems

# Food Safety & Standard Act, 2011



Food Safety and Standards  
Authority of India

The Government of India by notification established a body known as the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India under this FSS Act 2006

FSSAI is to ensure availability of wholesome safe food for human consumption

The Food Safety Standards Authority of India is governed by Ministry of Health and Welfare

The FSSAI made the eight different Regulations and has been implemented from 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011 in the interest of Food Business Operators and consumers



FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS  
AUTHORITY OF INDIA

*Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food*

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

## FSSAI Integrated the following Acts

The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954

The Fruit Products Order, 1955

The Meat Food Products Order, 1973

The Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947

The Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998

The Solvent Extracted Oil, De-oiled Meal & Edible Flour (Control) Order, 1967

The Milk & Milk Products Order, 1992

Any other order issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955) relating to food

# Salient Feature of the Act - FSSSA

Decentralization of licensing for food products

Easy issue of License with time frame of two months.

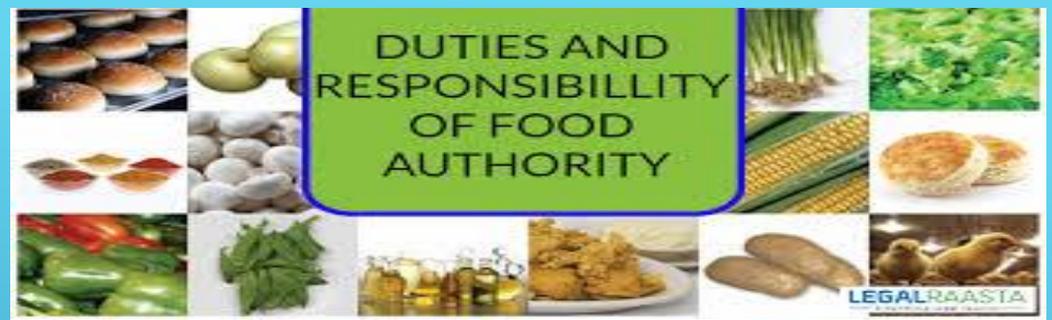
No License for small food business operators; only registration is mandatory

The act ensures safety of consumers and assures full compensation to victim in case of injury or death

The act emphasizes on training and awareness program regarding food safety for food business operators, consumers and regulators

The act encourages self regulation through introduction of Food Recall Procedures

# FUNCTIONS OF



- Framing of Regulations to lay down the Standards and guidelines in relation to articles of food and specifying appropriate system of enforcing various standards thus notified.
- Laying down mechanisms and guidelines for accreditation of certification bodies engaged in certification of food safety management system for food businesses.
- Laying down procedure and guidelines for accreditation of laboratories and notification of the accredited laboratories.
- To provide scientific advice and technical support to Central Government and State Governments in the matters of framing the policy and rules in areas which have a direct or indirect bearing of food safety and nutrition.

- Collect and collate data regarding food consumption, incidence and prevalence of biological risk, contaminants in food, residues of various, contaminants in foods products, identification of emerging risks and introduction of rapid alert system.
- Provide training programmes for persons who are involved or intend to get involved in food businesses.
- Creating an information network across the country so that the public, consumers, Panchayats etc receive rapid, reliable and objective information about food safety and issues of concern.
- Contribute to the development of international technical standards for food, sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards.
- Promote general awareness about food safety and food standards.

## Implementation challenges

Introduction of the FSSA could be instrumental in boosting both domestic and international consumer confidence and making India match the international standards of food safety. However, its effective implementation is fraught with numerous challenges such as:

1. Poor general awareness towards the hazards associated with unsafe food practices and the best practices to be followed
2. Lack of basic supporting infrastructure such as testing labs
3. Insufficient technical expertise and skilled manpower for implementation of legislation at the grass root level
4. Exclusion of primary producers from the purview of the law thus putting the onus of preventing food hazards on the manufacturers/processors
5. Problems in traceability of product especially in the upstream processors of the food chain – from the farm gate to the processing unit
6. Creating an enabling environment

Thank you  
for your  
attention



**FOCUS**  
on  
**Food**  
**Safety**