

18– 02- 2024

News: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- In a recent meeting held in New Delhi, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** approved various amendments aimed at simplifying food safety regulations and promoting ease of doing business.

Proposed Amendments in Food Safety and Standard Regulations

Elimination of Multiple Certifications

- The **amendments aim to abolish the requirement for certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Agricultural Marketing (AGMARK) certification for food products.**
- **Instead, only certification from the FSSAI would be mandatory** if these changes are finalised.

Facilitation of Ease of Doing Business

- The amendments align with the government's vision of 'One Nation, One Commodity, One Regulator,' intending to simplify regulations and administrative processes for businesses operating in the food sector.

Expansion of Standards

- Apart from the simplification of the certification process, the proposed amendments include the establishment of standards for Mead (Honey wine) and Alcoholic Ready-to-drink (RTD) beverages, and the introduction of standards for 'Haleem,' a dish made of meat, pulses, grains, and other ingredients.
- Haleem currently lacks defined quality parameters.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

(FSSAI)

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is constituted under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

- FSSAI is responsible for **protecting and promoting public health** through the **regulation and supervision of food safety**.
- The FSSAI has its headquarters at **New Delhi**. The authority also has **6 regional** offices located in Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin, and Chennai.
- **14 referral laboratories** notified by FSSAI, **72 State/UT laboratories** located throughout India and 112 laboratories are NABL accredited private laboratories notified by FSSAI.
- Recently, through an amendment of Food Safety and Standards Regulations, FSSAI limited the Trans-fat use in Oils. (04-01-2020).
- FSSAI has also launched the **State Food Safety Index**.