Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** (**FSSAI**) is a statutory body established under the [Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Health_and_Family_Welfare_(India)).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-fssaiintro-4) The FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statue related to [food safety](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_safety) and regulation in India.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-5)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-fssaiintro-4) FSSAI is responsible for protecting and promoting [public health](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_health) through the [regulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regulation) and supervision of [food safety](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_safety).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-fssaiintro-4)

The FSSAI is headed by a non-executive chairperson, appointed by the [Central Government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_government), either holding or has held the position of not below the rank of Secretary to the [Government of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_India).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-6) Rajesh Bhusan is the current chairperson for FSSAI and Shri Arun Singhal is the current chief executive officer for FSSAI.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-7)

The FSSAI has its headquarters at [New Delhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Delhi). The authority also has 6 regional offices located in [Delhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi), [Guwahati](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guwahati" \o "Guwahati), [Mumbai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mumbai), [Kolkata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolkata), [Cochin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cochin), and [Chennai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chennai).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-8) 14 referral laboratories notified by FSSAI, 72 State/UT laboratories located throughout India and 112 laboratories are [NABL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Accreditation_Board_for_Testing_and_Calibration_Laboratories) accredited private laboratories notified by FSSAI.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-9)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-10)

In 2021, with the aim of benefitting industries involved in manufacturing, handling, packaging and selling of food items, FSSAI decided to grant perpetual licenses to restaurants and food manufacturers on the condition that they file their returns every year.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-11)

## History[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: History)]

FSSAI was established on 5 August 2008 under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which was operationalized in year 2006. The FSSAI consists of a chairperson & 22 members. The FSSAI is responsible for setting standards for food so that there is one body to deal with and no confusion in the minds of consumers, traders, manufacturers, and investors.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-fssaifaqs-12)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-:0-13) [Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Health_and_Family_Welfare) is the Administrative Ministry of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-:1-14)[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-:2-15) The following are the statutory powers that the FSS Act, 2006 gives to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-:3-16)

1. Framing of regulations to lay down food safety standards
2. Laying down guidelines for accreditation of laboratories for food testing
3. Providing scientific advice and technical support to the Central Government
4. Contributing to the development of international technical standards in food
5. Collecting and collating data regarding food consumption, contamination, emerging risks, etc.
6. Disseminating information and promoting awareness about food safety and nutrition in India.

## Location[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Location)]

FSSAI is located in 4 regions [[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-17)

1. Northern Region – With head office at [New Delhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Delhi).
2. Eastern Region - With regional office at [Kolkata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolkata)
3. Western region - With regional office at [Mumbai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mumbai)
4. Southern Region - With regional office at [Chennai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chennai)

## Regulatory framework[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Regulatory framework)]

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is a statutory body under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The Food Safety and Standards Act (FSS), 2006 is the primary law for the regulation of food products. This act also sets up the formulation and enforcement of food safety standards in India. The FSSAI appoints food safety authorities on the state level.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-18)

The FSSAI functions under the administrative control of the [Ministry of Health and Family Welfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Health_and_Family_Welfare).[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-19) The main aim of FSSAI is to

1. Lay down science-based standards for articles on food
2. To regulate the manufacture, storage, distribution, import, and sale of food
3. To facilitate the safety of food

The FSS Act is a bucket for all the older laws, rules and regulations for food safety. The FSS Act took 7 older acts into one umbrella.

1. [Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954](http://lawmin.nic.in/ld/P-ACT/1954/A1954-37.pdf) [[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-20)
2. [Fruit Products Order, 1955](http://www.old.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/fpoact.pdf) [[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-21)
3. Meat Food Products Order, 1973 [[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-22)
4. [Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947](http://www.old.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/vegetableoils.pdf)
5. [Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1998](http://www.old.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Edible%20Oil%20Packaging.pdf) [[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-23)
6. [Solvent Extracted Oil, De- Oiled Meal and Edible Flour (Control) Order, 1967](http://www.old.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/solvent_Extracted.pdf) [[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-24)
7. [Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992](http://www.old.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/mmpo.pdf).[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-25)

Departments[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India" \l "cite_note-26)

1. SCIENCE & STANDARDS DIVISION (I & II)
2. REGULATIONS DIVISION
3. QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION (I & II)
4. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION
5. HUMAN RESOURCE & FINANCE DIVISION
6. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY COORDINATION DIVISION
7. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
8. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE DIVISION
9. TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIVISION
10. TRAINING DIVISION
11. RAJBHASHA

## Research and quality assurance[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Research and quality assurance)]

### Research[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India&action=edit&section=5" \o "Edit section: Research)]

FSSAI has set certain guidelines for food safety research. The Research and Development division is responsible for research with the following objectives:

1. Generate new knowledge that would help in continuously updating and upgrading food safety standards that are compatible with international organizations
2. Carry out evidence-based studies for improving or building Rules and regulations.

### Quality Assurance[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India&action=edit&section=6" \o "Edit section: Quality Assurance)]

FSSAI has been mandated to perform various functions related to the quality and standards of food and drinks . These functions in addition to others include "Laying down procedure and guidelines for notification of the accredited laboratories as per ISO17025."[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-27) The FSSAI notified laboratories that are classified as:

1. FSSAI Notified [NABL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Accreditation_Board_for_Testing_and_Calibration_Laboratories) Accredited Labs - 112 [[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-28)
2. State Labs - 72
3. Referral Labs - 14 [[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-29)

## Standards[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India&action=edit&section=7" \o "Edit section: Standards)]

Standards framed by FSSAI are prescribed under Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011, Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulation, 2011 and Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, [Toxins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toxins), and Residues) Regulations, 2011.

The FSSAI has prescribed standards for the following:

* [Dairy products](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dairy_products) and analogues [[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-30)
* Fats, [oils](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oils) and fat emulsions
* [Fruits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fruits) and vegetable products
* [Cereal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cereal) and cereal products
* Meat and meat products
* [Fish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish) and fish products
* Sweets & confectionery
* Sweetening agents including honey
* [Salt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt), [spices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spices), condiments and related products
* [Beverages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beverages), (other than dairy and fruits & vegetables based)
* Other food product and ingredients
* Proprietary food
* Irradiation of food
* Fortification of staple foods i.e. vegetable oil, milk, salt, rice and wheat flour/maida[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India" \l "cite_note-31)

The development of standards is a dynamic process based on the latest developments in [food science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_science), food consumption pattern, new food products, and additives, changes in the processing technology leading to changed specifications, advancements in food analytical methods, and identification of new risks or other regulatory options.

Formulation of standards of any article of food under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, involves several stages. After consideration by the Food Authority, the draft standard is published (Draft notified), for inviting stakeholder comments. Since India is a signatory to the WTO-SPS Committee, Draft Standard is also notified in WTO. Thereafter, taking into account the comments received from the stakeholders, the Standard is finalized and notified in the Gazette of India, and implemented.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-32)

## Consumer outreach[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India&action=edit&section=8" \o "Edit section: Consumer outreach)]

Consumers can connect to FSSAI through various channels. A GAMA portal for concerns regarding misleading claims and advertisements too is operated.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-33)

## Applicable FSSAI License[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India&action=edit&section=9" \o "Edit section: Applicable FSSAI License)]

FSSAI issues three types of license based on the nature of the food business and turnover:

* Registration: For Turnover less than ₹12 Lakh
* State License: For Turnover between ₹12 Lakh to ₹20 Crore
* Central License: For Turnover above ₹20 Crore

Other criteria like the location of the business, number of retail stores, etc. are needed while evaluating the nature of the license application.

## Projects[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India&action=edit&section=10)]

In 2009 the FSSAI instigated a pilot project *Safe Food, Tasty Food* to improve the safety and quality of food being served at restaurants and other outlets, implementing agencies being local municipal authorities and industry associations (FICCI, CII, AIFPA and [NRAI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Restaurant_Association_of_India)).[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Safety_and_Standards_Authority_of_India#cite_note-34)