

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an agency that supervises and governs the food industry in India. It is a self-governing agency formed by the Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The FSSAI was founded under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act), which is a consolidated legislation in India governing food safety and regulation. It guarantees that food items are subjected to quality tests, reducing food adulteration and the selling of subpar products. It is in charge of registering and licensing Food Business Operators (FBO) in India, as well as establishing the laws and regulations for conducting food business in India.

Anyone active in the food manufacturing must be FSSAI registered. To operate a food processing, food manufacturing, packaging, distributing, or selling company, you must have an FSSAI registration.

The registration/license is provided by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), an organization that oversees food enterprises in accordance with the FSSAI Act, 2006.



FSSAI is established to control the food manufacturing, distribution, storage, sale, and import processes, as well as to guarantee that safe and healthy food is accessible for human consumption, and for matters related with or incidental to these processes. FSSAI registration or license is necessary for all food-related enterprises such as restaurants, manufacturers, grocery stores, merchants, small eateries, importers, exporters, dairy farms, processors, home-based food businesses, and retailers.

Eligibility for FSSAI Registration

FSSAI Registration is a fundamental license that is needed of all FBOs engaged in the small-scale food sector. This category includes the following companies:

- Any FBO having an annual revenue of less than Rs. 12 lakh.
- Food goods are sold by a small store.
- Any individual who makes or sells food on his or her own.
- The food is sold by the temporary stall holder.
- Except for a caterer, someone who distributes food during a religious or social event.
- Small-scale or cottage enterprises involved in the food industry

FSSAI Registration

Every food business operator that manufactures, processes, stores, distributes, or sells food items must get an FSSAI Registration or License.

FSSAI Registration differs from FSSAI License in that FBO should get the relevant registration or license based on the size and type of the business.

It is a 14-digit registration or licensing number found on all food containers. The 14-digit registration number contains information on the assembly state and the producer's permit. This registration procedure is intended to increase accountability on the part of the Food Business Operator (FBO) in order to preserve the quality of the food items. The Food Safety & Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, govern the licensing and registration process and standards.



The Advantages of FSSAI License Registration

Apart from the fact that FSSAI registration is required for your food company, it also has significant advantages:

- It builds trust and credibility with your customers.
- Because the FSSAI mark is widely recognized, it can assure customer trust.
- When FSSAI registration is involved, hygiene and cleanliness are monitored and observed.
- Better work policies can be created or improved through research to which you have access.
- You will get new industry information that will help you enhance your safety standards and meet the norms of international organizations.
- Importing and exporting food goods require an FSSAI license.
- When selling food goods online, FSSAI certification is required.
- FSSAI is also in charge of developing guidelines and methods for quality assurance in authorized labs in accordance with ISO17025.

Types of FSSAI Registration

The FSSAI registration process is dependent on the type of business, sales, and manufacturing capacity. FBOs are eligible for licenses according on installed capacity and turnover.

- **FSSAI Basic Registration** : FBOs with less than Rs.12 lakh in annual revenue must get FSSAI basic registration. Form A is the FSSAI registration form that the applicant must complete in order to receive FSSAI basic registration.
- **FSSAI State License** : FBOs with a revenue of more than Rs.12 lakh per annum but less than Rs.20 crore per annum are required to get an FSSAI state license. The FSSAI registration form that the applicant has to submit to receive an FSSAI state license is Form B.
- **FSSAI Central License** : FBOs with a yearly revenue of more than Rs.20 crore are required to get an FSSAI central license. Form B is the FSSAI registration form that the applicant must complete in order to receive an FSSAI central license.

Documents Needed to Obtain FSSAI Registration

To get FSSAI basic registration, FSSAI state license, and FSSAI central license, the following documents are required:

- Operators of food establishments must provide photo identification.

- Certificate of business constitution, such as a partnership agreement, certificate of incorporation, shop and establishment license, or other business registration certificate.
- Proof of business premises possession, such as a rental agreement, a letter of authorization from the owner of the rented premises, utility bills, and so on.
- Plan for a food safety management system.
- A list of food items that have been produced or processed.
- Information about your bank account.
- Supporting documentation (if necessary), such as a Municipality or Panchayat NOC, a Health NOC, a copy of the manufacturer's license, and so on.

Aside from the basic documentation listed above, some specialized documents are necessary for getting the FSSAI state license and FSSAI central license. The following documents are necessary to receive the FSSAI state license:



- Form B has been completed and signed.
- The dimensions and operation-wise area allocation of the processing unit shown in the plan.
- List of Directors/Partners/Proprietors, including address, contact information, and picture ID.
- Name and list of used equipment and machinery, including number and installed capacity.
- The manufacturer's authority letter designated a responsible person's name and address.
- Water analysis report must be utilized in the process to validate portability.
- Copies of certificates received under the Coop Act of 1861 and the Multi-State Coop Act, 2002.

Aside from the basic license, the FSSAI central license requires the following special documents:

- Form B duly completed and signed.
- Plan of the processing unit displaying dimensions and operational area allocation
- List of Directors/Partners/Proprietors with address, contact information, and picture ID
- Name and list of used equipment and machinery, including number and installed capacity
- A responsible person's name and address were designated in an authority letter from the manufacturer.

- Water analysis report must be utilized in the process to validate portability
- Source of raw materials for milk, meat, and other products
- Wherever possible, use a recall strategy.
- 100% EOU Ministry of Commerce Certificate
- FSSAI provided NOC/PA document
- DGFT produced an IE code paper.
- IX Form
- Ministry of Tourism Certificate
- Documentation supporting verification of turnover and transportation
- Form of Declaration

Procedure to obtain an Online FSSAI registration

Following the steps outlined below online will allow the applicant to receive FSSAI Registration:

- By completing and submitting Form A (application for Registration) or Form B (application for State and Central License) on the FoSCoS site, FBOs can receive FSSAI registration online. The Food and Safety Department will accept Form A or Form B from FBOs that wish to register offline.

- The relevant documentation must be submitted with the FSSAI registration form. The papers must be physically or electronically given to the Food and Safety Department with the application at the time of filling out the FoSCos site.
- Within seven days of receiving an application physically or electronically through the FoSCoS portal, the Department may approve or reject the FSSAI registration form. If the application is denied, the applicant must be informed in writing.
- The Department will examine the provided documents.
- If necessary, the Department may perform an examination of the food facilities prior to issuing the FSSAI registration certificate.
- The Department will provide an FSSAI registration certificate with the registration number, the applicant's picture, and their email address if they are satisfied that the FBO satisfies all of the necessary requirements. By login into the FoSCoS portal, the applicant may also download the FSSAI registration certificate.
- During business hours, FBO must clearly display the FSSAI registration certificate on the premises.



Consequences of Failure to Comply

Anyone who has obtained a registration or license from the FSSAI is required to abide by the guidelines established by the FSS Act, 2006. The facility of the food company operator is typically inspected by a food safety officer, who uses a checklist to assess the level of regulatory compliance. The food safety officer marks it as follows based on the compliance level:

- Compliance (C)
- Non-compliance (NC)
- Partial compliance (PC)
- Not applicable/Not observed (NA)

According to Section 32 of the FSS Act, 2006, the food safety officer may, when needed, issue an improvement notice based on the information above. The officer may revoke the business owner's license after providing him a chance to explain his failure to comply with the improvement notice. Any owner of a food establishment who is unhappy with an improvement notice may appeal to the State Commissioner of Food Safety. A challenge to the ruling can be made by filing an appeal with the Food Safety Appellate Tribunal or High Court.

Penalty for Non- Compliances

The fines for various types of non-compliance are listed in the table below:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Fine Applicable
1.	Low Food Quality according to the Act	2 Lakh Petty manufactures- 25,000/-
2.	Sub- Standard of Food	5 Lakh
3.	Misbranded Food Item	3 Lakh
4.	Misleading Advertisement of Food	10 Lakh
5.	Extraneous matter present in the food item	1 Lakh
6.	Non- Compliance of Food Safety Officer Directions	2 Lakh
7.	Unhygienic Processing or Manufacturing	1 Lakh

Renewal of FSSAI License

The FSSAI licence is necessary to start a food business, and it is as important to renew the licence. The business must submit an application for renewal 30 days before the existing licence expires since the licence is good for 1 year or 5 years.

Circulars/ Notifications/ Orders

- **Clarification regarding application for vegan logo endorsement**

Reference for Circular

- **Requirement of Health Certificate to be accompanied with the import of food consignments**

Reference for Circular

- **Directions under 16(5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 dated 14th September 2022 regarding graphic specifications of Vegan logo**

Reference for Circular

- **Mandatory declaration of FSSAI License / Registration number on cash receipts / invoices / cash memo / bills etc. by all Food Businesses on sale of food products**

Reference for Circular

- **Order dated 08th September 2022 regarding approved test methods for detection of Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B12 in Fortified Rice**

Reference for Circular

- **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Second Amendment Regulations, 2022**

Reference for Circular

- **Order regarding use of blends of oils / emulsions / hydrogenated vegetable oils intended to be sold as intermediary ingredients.**

Reference for Circular

- **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) First Amendment Regulations, 2022**

Reference for Circular

- **Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Amendment Regulation related to migration limit for Antimony and DEHP in plastic materials**

Reference for Circular

- **Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) First Amendment Regulations, 2022**

Reference for Circular

- **Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) First Amendment Regulations, 2022**

Reference for Circular

