

*Food Safety Standards
Authority of India*

Food Safety and Standards Act

- "An 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"

Provisions of the Act - Terminology

- "Food" means any substance, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, which is intended for human consumption..."
- "Contaminant" means any substance whether or not added to food, but which is present in such food as a result of the production, manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, and does not include insect fragments, rodent hairs, and other extraneous matter

Provisions of the Act - Terminology

- "Adulterant" means any material which is or could be employed for making the food unsafe or sub-standard or mis-branded or containing extraneous matter
- "Food additive" means any substance not normally consumed as a food by itself or used as a typical ingredient of the food, whether or not it has nutritive value, the intentional addition of which to food for a technological purpose...but does not include "contaminants" or substances added to food for maintaining or improving nutritional qualities

Duties and Functions of Food Authority

- Shall regulate and monitor the manufacture, processing, distribution, sale and import of food so as to ensure safe and wholesome food
- Specify the standards and guidelines in relation to articles of food and specifying an appropriate system for enforcing various standards notified under the act
- The limits for use of food additives, crop contaminants, pesticide residues, residues of veterinary drugs, heavy metals, myco-toxins, antibiotics, and irradiation of food

Duties and Functions of Food Authority

- The procedure and the enforcement of quality control in relation to any article of food imported
- The procedure and guidelines for accreditation of laboratories
- Food labelling standards including claims on health, nutrition, and special dietary uses
- Contribute to the development of international technical standards for food, sanitary, and phyto-sanitary standards

Duties and Functions of Food Authority

- Promote consistency between international technical standards and domestic food standards while ensuring that the level of protection adopted in the country is not reduced
- Promote general awareness as to food safety and food standards

Articles of Food

- No article of food shall contain any food additive or processing aid unless it is in accordance with the Act
- Shall not contain any contaminant, naturally occurring toxic substances, toxins, or hormones, heavy metals in excess of such quantities as may be specified by the Act
- Shall not contain insecticides, antibiotics, drug residues and no insecticide shall be directly applied on article of food except fumigants registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968

GM, organic, functional, proprietary foods

- As otherwise provided by the Act, no person shall manufacture, distribute, sell or import any novel food, GM, irradiated, foods for special dietary needs, nutraceuticals, health supplements, proprietary foods
- GM food means food and food ingredients composed of or containing genetically modified or engineered organisms obtained through modern biotechnology
- Organic food means food products that are produced in accordance with specified organic production standards

GM, organic, functional, proprietary foods

- Proprietary and novel food means an article of food for which standards have not been specified but is safe provided that such food does not contain any of the foods and ingredients prohibited under the Act and regulations made thereunder
- Every food business operator shall ensure that the labelling and presentation of food, including their shape, appearance, or packaging, the packaging material used shall not mislead consumers

Provisions related to food safety

- No food business operator shall manufacture, store, sell, or distribute food that is unsafe
- Which is for the time being prohibited by the Food Authority in the interest of the public health
- The manufacturer or packer of an article of food shall be liable for such article of food if it does not meet the requirements of the Act
- Wholesaler or distributor shall be liable under the Act for any article of food that is supplied after the date of its expiry, kept in unhygienic conditions, misbranded

Food Recall

- Food retailer has reasons to believe that a food which he has processed, manufactured or distributed is not in compliance with the Act
- Shall initiate procedures to withdraw the food in question from the market and consumers indicating reasons for its withdrawal
- Shall inform the competent authorities of the action taken to prevent the risks to the consumer
- Food operator shall follow such guidelines relating to food recall procedures