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FSSAI Publishes the Final List of Food Additives

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Report Highlights:

The Government of India's (GOI) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published its comprehensive list of 11,000 food additives used in various food categories. The new document was prepared on the basis of comments received from various stakeholders. However, the final notification of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulation, 2016 remains pending.

General Information:

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from FSSAI's website <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>. The Office of Agricultural Affairs and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity.

On June 20, 2016, FSSAI published its final list of food additives used in various food products. The food additives list that was made operational in December 2015 contained only those additives for which no comments were received. The comprehensive list of food additives published now includes the comments received from various stakeholders. Along with this document, FSSAI has also released a press note on its website that talks about the harmonization process which started in February 2013. Operationalization of 11,000 food additives provision has begun through this process of harmonization and the food businesses can refer to this list of additives for various food categories. It is also mentioned in the press note that FSSAI has convened a meeting of its Scientific Committee on June 28, 2016, to discuss issues with respect of additives which were received after the finalization of the document. This also includes the issue on the use of potassium iodate.

The major highlights of the new list of food additives are:

- i. The food additive provisions already existing under Chapter 2 [Food Safety and Standards \(Food Product Standards and Food Additives\) Regulations, 2011](#), *except additive provision under 2.1.9 relating to food for infant nutrition* shall stand replaced with the most recent and shall supersede the provisions of the food additives which were operationalized in December, 2015 along with the provisions contained in Regulation 3.1 of the Food Product Standards and Food Additives Regulations, 2011.
- ii. The new list of food additives bans the use of potassium bromate and cyclamates in any food category.
- iii. The standards for the food additives with respect to alcoholic beverages have been set to align with the International Organization for Vine and Wine (OIV) standards.

It is recommended that interested parties should thoroughly review the final document containing the list of food additives and note major revisions.

Background:

On December 23, 2015, FSSAI published an interim order to immediately implement updated draft standards of food additives. These standards are in addition to the provisions under Regulation 3.1 of the [Food Safety and Standards \(Food Product Standards and Food Additives\) Regulation, 2011](#).

On July 23, 2015, FSSAI published the [Food Safety and Standards \(Food Products Standards and Food Additives\) Amendment Regulations, 2015](#), pertaining to standards for food additives (See GAIN [IN5096](#)). FSSAI drafted these standards in an effort to harmonize India's food additive standards with Codex Alimentarius. Full implementation was scheduled to start as of the ensuing January 1 or July 1 of the year, as the case may be, subject to a minimum of 180 days from the date of final notification of the regulations in the Official Gazette.

On August 5, 2015, India notified the draft regulation to the WTO (Notification Number: G/SPS/N/IND/108). The subsequent comment period for trading partners ended on October 4, 2015. (See GAIN [IN5108](#)).

The entire text of the document can be accessed at: [Final List of Food Additives](#) or can be accessed from the website of FSSAI at: <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>. The full text of the press note is provided below.

Press note

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has today operationalised the final list of 11,000 food additives provisions that can be used by food businesses in various food categories. This culminates an important process in developing food standards for food additives that began about three years ago.

In February, 2013, an exercise was taken up to harmonize the food standards that existed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955 with the Codex Standards. FSSAI's '*Scientific Panel on Food Additives*' undertook the herculean task of sifting through about 6,000 provisions of food additives under the PFA Act with Codex provisions for food additives and finalized a list of about 11,000 provisions. This was approved with suitable modifications in the 15th Scientific Committee held on 10th December, 2014 and later in the 16th Food Authority meeting held on 16th January, 2015.

Thereafter, these Standards of food additives were draft notified on 4th August 2015 and released for public consultation on 13.10.2015 inviting suggestions and comments from various stakeholders. No comments were received in respect of as many as 8000 provisions of food additives. These were made operational in addition to the pre-existing provisions contained in Regulations 3.1 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 on 23.12.2015. Final list of about 11,000 food additives provisions that has been operationalised today replaces the 8,000 provisions of food additives that were operationalized on 23.12.2015 and also the pre-existing provisions.

At least two additives, namely Potassium Bromate (normally used in bread and bakery products) and Cyclamates (normally used in jams, jellies, marmalades, dairy based drinks, confectionary etc.) have been removed from list of permissible additives. Hence, after this final list of provisions of additives, Potassium Bromate and Cyclamates are not allowed in any food category in the

country. FSSAI has convened a meeting of the Scientific Committee on 28.06.2016 to discuss other issues which have been received with respect to additives after these were finalized. The Committee will also discuss the issue of use of Potassium Iodate in food in the country.

It may be pointed out that FSSAI has already notified the specification of proprietary food so as to facilitate the food businesses to manufacture and process new food which may contain the standardized/approved ingredients in the Food Safety and Standards Regulations and may use the food additives permitted for the category or sub-category. FSSAI has also finalized a list of food additives with respect to alcoholic beverages in alignment with International Organization for Vine and Wine (OIV) Standards. With this FSSAI has achieved a major land mark in setting of the standards for various foods in the country.