

## **FSSAI verifies McDonald's India uses 100% real cheese: Westlife Foodworld**

India's food regulatory authority, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), has officially verified that McDonald's India utilizes 100 percent real cheese, as confirmed by Westlife Foodworld in a recent stock exchange disclosure on Tuesday.

This verification affirms McDonald's commitment to using 100 percent real cheese without the inclusion of any cheese analogues or substitutes in their products. Additionally, the west and south zones of McDonald's India have received test results from an NABL-accredited laboratory, providing further confirmation of the use of 100 percent real cheese across their product offerings.

Westlife Foodworld, the largest franchisee of McDonald's in India, operates a chain of McDonald's restaurants in West and South India, encompassing nearly 380 units across 62 cities in Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, and Puducherry.

The recent scrutiny of Westlife Foodworld arose when reports surfaced that one of its outlets allegedly used substitutes instead of real cheese in burgers and nuggets at a location in Maharashtra. In response, the state government announced an inspection, leading to potential action against well-known global fast-food chain outlets. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended the license of a McDonald's outlet in Ahmednagar, prompting the removal of the term "cheese" from various menu items. Although the license suspension was later revoked, concerns raised by the FDA led to calls for corrective measures and inspections on a broader scale, possibly extending nationally. Saurabh Kalra, Managing Director of Westlife, affirmed the company's commitment to maintaining the highest standards and cooperation with inspections.