

## **FSSAI removes validity clause of FSS Certification**

Considering the suggestions from the industry stakeholders, the food regulator of the country, Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to do away with the validity clause of the Food Safety Supervisors (FSS) under the Food Safety Training & Certification (FOSTaC) system.

In a notification, FSSAI has informed the decision to do away with the validity clause of two years for FSS. FOSTaC is a large-scale training and capacity building programme for the food business operators launched by FSSAI in May 2017. The FOSTaC programme is aimed at creating a pool of food safety supervisors (FSS), who are trained in good hygiene and manufacturing practices as per requirements in Schedule 4 of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011.

Food safety supervisor's certificate is issued to the food handlers after successful completion of the FOSTaC training programme. The validity of FSS certificate issued to the food handler was 2 years in case there is no change in the kind of business (KoB) of the food handler.

Examining the numerous memorandums from the food service industry explaining the practical challenges associated with the validity clause, FSSAI has decided to remove the validity clause with immediate effect.

This would mean the certification will be perpetual in nature as long as those certified do not change the 'kind of job (KoB)'. In case, the person changes the kind of business, the food handlers will have to undergo refresher training.