

THE FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS ACT, 2006

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

SECTIONS

1. Short title, extent and commencement.
2. Declaration as to expediency of control by the Union.
3. Definitions.

CHAPTER II

FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

4. Establishment of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
5. Composition of Food Authority and qualifications for appointment of its Chairperson and other Members.
6. Selection Committee for selection of Chairperson and Members of Food Authority.
7. Term of office, salary, allowances and other conditions of service of Chairperson and Members of Food Authority.
8. Removal of Chairperson and Members of Food Authority.
9. Officers and other employees of Food Authority.
10. Functions of the Chief Executive Officer.
11. Central Advisory Committee.
12. Functions of Central Advisory Committee.
13. Scientific Panels.
14. Scientific Committee.
15. Procedure for Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel.
16. Duties and functions of Food Authority.
17. Proceedings of Food Authority.

CHAPTER III

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FOOD SAFETY

18. General principles to be followed in administration of Act.

CHAPTER IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS AS TO ARTICLES OF FOOD

19. Use of food additive or processing aid.
20. Contaminants, naturally occurring toxic substances, heavy metals, etc.
21. Pesticides, veterinary drugs residues, antibiotic residues and microbiological counts.
22. Genetically modified foods, organic foods, functional foods, proprietary foods, etc.
23. Packaging and labelling of foods.
24. Restrictions of advertisement and prohibition as to unfair trade practices.

CHAPTER V
PROVISIONS RELATING TO IMPORT

SECTIONS

25. All imports of articles of food to be subject to this Act.

CHAPTER VI
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS TO FOOD SAFETY

26. Responsibilities of the food business operator.
27. Liability of the manufacturers, packers, wholesalers, distributors and sellers.
28. Food recall procedures.

CHAPTER VII
ENFORCEMENT OF THE ACT

29. Authorities responsible for enforcement of Act.
30. Commissioner of Food Safety of the State.
31. Licensing and registration of food business.
32. Improvement notices.
33. Prohibition orders.
34. Emergency prohibition notices and orders.
35. Notification of food poisoning.
36. Designated Officer.
37. Food Safety Officer.
38. Powers of Food Safety Officer.
39. Liability of Food Safety Officer in certain cases.
40. Purchaser may have food analysed.
41. Power of search, seizure, investigation, prosecution and procedure thereof.
42. Procedure for launching prosecution.

CHAPTER VIII
ANALYSIS OF FOOD

43. Recognition and accreditation of laboratories, research institutions and referral food laboratory.
44. Recognition of organisation or agency for food safety audit.
45. Food Analysts.
46. Functions of Food Analyst.
47. Sampling and analysis.

CHAPTER IX
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

48. General provisions relating to offences.
49. General provisions relating to penalty.
50. Penalty for selling food not of the nature or substance or quality demanded.
51. Penalty for sub-standard food.
52. Penalty for misbranded food.
53. Penalty for misleading advertisement.
54. Penalty for food containing extraneous matter.
55. Penalty for failure to comply with the directions of Food Safety Officer.
56. Penalty for unhygienic or unsanitary processing or manufacturing of food.

SECTIONS

- 57. Penalty for possessing adulterant.
- 58. Penalty for contraventions for which no specific penalty is provided.
- 59. Punishment for unsafe food.
- 60. Punishment for interfering with seized items.
- 61. Punishment for false information.
- 62. Punishment for obstructing or impersonating a Food Safety Officer.
- 63. Punishment for carrying out a business without licence.
- 64. Punishment for subsequent offences.
- 65. Compensation in case of injury or death of consumer.
- 66. Offences by companies.
- 67. Penalty for contravention of provisions of this Act in case of import of articles of food to be in addition to penalties provided under any other Act.

CHAPTER X

ADJUDICATION AND FOOD SAFETY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

- 68. Adjudication.
- 69. Power to compound offences.
- 70. Establishment of Food Safety Appellate Tribunal.
- 71. Procedure and powers of the Tribunal.
- 72. Civil court not to have jurisdiction.
- 73. Power of court to try cases summarily.
- 74. Special courts and Public Prosecutor.
- 75. Power to transfer cases to regular courts.
- 76. Appeal.
- 77. Time limit for prosecutions.
- 78. Power of court to implead manufacturer, etc.
- 79. Magistrate's power to impose enhanced punishment.
- 80. Defences which may or may not be allowed in prosecution under this Act.

CHAPTER XI

FINANCE, ACCOUNTS, AUDIT AND REPORTS

- 81. Budget of Food Authority.
- 82. Finances of the Food Authority.
- 83. Accounts and audit of Food Authority.
- 84. Annual report of Food Authority.

CHAPTER XII

MISCELLANEOUS

- 85. Power of Central Government to issue directions to Food Authority and obtain reports and returns.
- 86. Power of Central Government to give directions to State Governments.
- 87. Members, officers of Food Authority and Commissioner of Food Safety to be public servants.
- 88. Protection of action taken in good faith.
- 89. Overriding effect of this Act over all other food related laws.
- 90. Transfer of existing employees of Central Government Agencies governing various foods related Acts or Orders to Food Authority.
- 91. Power of Central Government to make rules.
- 92. Power of Food Authority to make regulations.
- 93. Laying of rules and regulations before Parliament.
- 94. Power of State Government to make rules.

SECTIONS

- 95. Reward by State Government.
 - 96. Recovery of penalty.
 - 97. Repeal and savings.
 - 98. Transitory provisions for food standards.
 - 99. Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992 shall be deemed to be regulations made under this Act.
 - 100. Amendments to the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992.
 - 101. Power to remove difficulties.
- THE FIRST SCHEDULE.
- THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

THE FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS ACT, 2006

ACT NO. 34 OF 2006

[23rd August, 2006.]

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.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date¹ as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

2. Declaration as to expediency of control by the Union.—It is hereby declared that it is expedient in the public interest that the Union should take under its control the food industry.

3. Definitions.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “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;

(b) “advertisement” means any audio or visual publicity, representation or pronouncement made by means of any light, sound, smoke, gas, print, electronic media, internet or website and includes through any notice, circular, label, wrapper, invoice or other documents;

(c) “Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Food Authority;

(d) “claim” means any representation which states, suggests, or implies that a food has particular qualities relating to its origin, nutritional properties, nature, processing, composition or otherwise;

(e) “Commissioner of Food Safety” means the Commissioner of Food Safety appointed under section 30;

(f) “consumer” means persons and families purchasing and receiving food in order to meet their personal needs;

(g) “contaminant” means any substance, whether or not added to food, but which is present in such food as a result of the production (including operations carried out in crop husbandry, animal husbandry or veterinary medicine), manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food or as a result of environmental contamination and does not include insect fragments, rodent hairs and other extraneous matter;

1. 15th October 2007 sections 4 to 10 (both inclusive), Sections 87, 88, 91 and 101 effective from 15th October 2007 *vide* Notification No. S.O.1758(E) *see* Gazette of India, extraordinary Part II, sec 3(ii).
28th May, 2008 (ss. 3 and 30), *vide* notification No. S.O. 1246(E), dated 28th May, 2008, *see* Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, sec. 3(ii).
28th August, 2008 (s. 90), *vide* notification No. S.O. 2127(E), dated 28th August, 2008, *see* Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, sec. 3(ii).
18th November, 2008 (ss. 16, 17, 18, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 92 and 93), *vide* notification No. S.O. 2678(E), dated 18th November, 2008, *see* Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, sec. 3(ii).
9th March, 2009 (ss. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15), *vide* notification No. S.O. 650(E), dated 9th March, 2009, *see* Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, sec. 3(ii).
31st July, 2009 Section 36 to 47 effective *vide* Notification No. S.O 1868(E) dated 31st July, 2009, *see* Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, sec 3(ii).
29th June, 2009 Section 99 to be effective *vide* Notification No. S.O. 1575(E) dated 29th June, 2009, *see* Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, sec 3(ii).