

September 14, 2026

FSSAI

Five-day lab report deadline for imported food samples

FSSAI amends its lab regulations so that, from April 1, 2027, import sample reports are due in five days and regulatory sample reports in fourteen days.

THE FOOD SAFETY AND Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued notification F. No. QA/11023/31/2022-QA-FSSAI(2), dated September 14, 2026, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 558 of September 15, 2026. It

makes the Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and Sample Analysis) Amendment Regulations, 2026, which amend the Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and Sample Analysis) Regulations, 2011. The amendments come into force on April 1, 2027.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY

FSSAI

PUBLISHED

September 14, 2026

ISSUED BY

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

DOCUMENT

Notification F. No. QA/11023/31/2022-QA-FSSAI(2)



Five-day lab report deadline for imported food samples

FSSAI · September 14, 2026

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued notification F. No. QA/11023/31/2022-QA-FSSAI(2), dated September 14, 2026, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 558 of September 15, 2026. It makes the Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and Sample Analysis) Amendment Regulations, 2026, which amend the Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and Sample Analysis) Regulations, 2011. The amendments come into force on April 1, 2027.

The regulations are made under clause (e) of sub-section (2) of section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with the previous approval of the Central Government. A draft, the Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and Sample Analysis) Amendment Regulations, 2025, was published by FSSAI notification dated February 17, 2025, with copies made available to the public on February 20, 2025, and objections and suggestions were invited within sixty days. The notification states that those received have been considered.

A new regulation 2.6 sets timelines for analysis. For imports, the notified laboratory or referral laboratory, as the case may be, shall provide the laboratory analysis report, in the format specified under the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017, within five days from the date of receipt of the sample. If the laboratory cannot test the sample within that time, it shall state the reasons in writing to the Authorised Officer.

For regulatory samples, the Food Analyst shall issue the signed report within fourteen days of receiving the article of food, in the format specified under the Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011. In an appeal, the referral laboratory shall issue a report signed by its Director within fourteen days of receipt of the sample. Where a sample cannot be analyzed within fourteen days, the Food Analyst or the referral laboratory shall inform the Designated Officer and the Commissioner of Food Safety, giving reasons and the time to be taken.

A new regulation 2.5 provides that the manuals of methods of analysis, as amended or adopted by the Authority from time to time, shall be used for analyzing food samples. Where a method for a parameter is not available in those manuals, the food laboratory may adopt a validated method prescribed by AOAC, ISO, Pearson's, Jacob, IUPAC, Food Chemicals CODEX, BIS, Codex Alimentarius, Woodmen, Winton-Winton, Joslyn or any other internationally recognized regulatory agency.

Sub-regulation 2.3.1 is also amended. The certificate signed by the Director of the Referral Food Laboratory, or the report signed by the Food Analyst, is to be supplied forthwith to the sender in Forms XI or VII A respectively, and the quantity drawn for unspecified products shall follow guidelines issued by the Food Authority from time to time. Forms A and B are omitted. The notification is signed by Rajit Punhani, Chief Executive Officer.

Issued by	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
Document	Notification F. No. QA/11023/31/2022-QA-FSSAI(2)
Dated	September 14, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 558, September 15, 2026
Takes effect	April 1, 2027
Amends	Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and Sample Analysis) Regulations, 2011
Import sample reports	Within five days from the date of receipt of the sample
Regulatory sample reports	Within fourteen days of receipt
Signed by	Rajit Punhani, Chief Executive Officer

Timelines for analysis (new regulation 2.6)

Sample	Who reports	Timeline	If the timeline cannot be met
Regulatory sample	Food Analyst	Within fourteen days of the receipt of the article of food	Inform the Designated Officer and the Commissioner of Food Safety, giving reasons and the time to be taken
Appeal	Referral laboratory (report signed by the Director)	Within fourteen days of receipt of sample	Inform the Designated Officer and the Commissioner of Food Safety, giving reasons and the time to be taken
Import	Notified laboratory or referral laboratory, as the case may be	Within five days from the date of receipt of the sample	State the reasons in writing to the Authorised Officer

[The notification](#) (PDF, 761 KB)

Source: [Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-17092026-276298](#).

Checked against the official copy on October 20, 2026.

IndusDesk

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 98917 60000

9th Floor, Hemkunt House, Rajendra Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110008, India

Read online: indusdesk.com/fssai/insights/five-day-lab-report-deadline-for-imported-food-samples/