FSSAI

FSSAI prior approval applications only through ePAAS from June 1

FSSAI's office order of May 6, 2026 makes ePAAS the only route for prior approval and risk assessment applications from June 1, 2026, ending manual and email filing.

THE FOOD SAFETY AND Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, issued an Office Order dated May 6, 2026 from its Science and Standards Division, under File No. SSDIV2-PA050(11)/2/2025-Standard-FSSAI. Its subject is implementing the process for prior approval and risk assessment through the single window system (ePAAS). It is addressed to all food business operators and other stakeholders and issues with the approval of the Competent Authority. Dr. Alka Rao, Advisor (Science & Standards & Regulations), signed it digitally on May 6, 2026. The copy carries no Gazette reference.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY

FSSAI

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Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Science and Standards Division), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

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Office Order, File No. SSDIV2-PA050(11)/2/2025-Standard

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FSSAI · May 6, 2026

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The order implements a Single Window System through the electronic Product and Claim Approval Application System (ePAAS), "to ensure parity and transparency in risk assessment and approval mechanisms". ePAAS is to serve as a unified digital interface for the submission, processing, monitoring, and appeal or review of all applications for prior approval and risk assessment of products, ingredients and claims under the relevant regulations. All applications, with a complete dossier, for the risk assessment and approval of the following go only through ePAAS: approval of Non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients (NSF&FI); authorization of r-PET; approval of claims; approval of Ayurveda Aahara; FSMP (food for special medical purpose); vegan endorsement; notification of esters, derivatives or salts of vitamins, salts or chelates of minerals, and esters, derivatives, isomers or salts of amino acids; and any other food, product, process or system for which the Food Authority requires prior approval under the FSS Act, 2006 and its regulations, or as notified from time to time.

From June 1, 2026, all these applications for prior approval or authorization from FSSAI are to be submitted only through the ePAAS portal (https://epaas.fssai.gov.in/login), where the guidelines, forms and formats will be available. The order says: "No manual, offline, or email-based applications shall be entertained thereafter." Unless the relevant regulations specify otherwise, the forms and formats are those of the FSS (Approval of Non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017.

Annexure I, "Regulatory Requirements where Prior Approval in needed as per FSSR", has 21 entries. Three are clauses of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011, on vanaspati, caffeinated beverages and non-carbonated water based beverages. Fourteen are provisions of the Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food Regulations, 2016. One each comes from the regulations on non-specified food (regulation 3), advertising and claims (regulation 11) and foods for infant nutrition (regulation 7(1)(e)). The last covers any other prior approval under the Act and its regulations. As the annexure quotes regulation 3 of the 2017 regulations, "No person shall manufacture or import any non-specified food or food ingredient, as the case may be, except with the prior approval of the Food Authority."

The order does not mention fees or processing times, and does not say what happens to applications submitted manually, offline or by email before June 1, 2026. Annexure I does not name the regulations for r-PET, Ayurveda Aahara or vegan endorsement; its last entry covers any other prior approval. The order does not mention importers or foreign manufacturers separately.

Issued by	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Science and Standards Division), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Document	Office Order, File No. SSDIV2-PA050(11)/2/2025-Standard-FSSAI
Dated	May 6, 2026
Takes effect	June 1, 2026
Portal	ePAAS, the electronic Product and Claim Approval Application System: https://epaas.fssai.gov.in/login
Applies to	All applications, with a complete dossier, for risk assessment and prior approval or authorization by FSSAI
Categories listed	NSF&FI; r-PET authorization; claims; Ayurveda Aahara; FSMP; vegan endorsement; notification of esters, derivatives or salts of vitamins, salts or chelates of minerals, and esters, derivatives, isomers or salts of amino acids; any other prior approval under the FSS Act, 2006 and its regulations, or as notified from time to time
No longer accepted	Manual, offline or email-based applications
Forms and formats	As under the FSS (Approval of Non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017, unless the relevant regulations specify otherwise
Annexure I	21 entries: 20 provisions of five sets of regulations, and any other prior approval
Addressed to	All Food Business Operators and other stakeholders
Signed by	Dr. Alka Rao, Advisor (Science & Standards & Regulations), digitally signed May 6, 2026

Annexure I: regulatory requirements where prior approval is needed

Sl. No.	Regulation	Clause
1	Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011	2.2.6 (1) Vanaspati: from any other edible vegetable oil, with prior approval

2	Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011	Regulation 2.10.6 (2) (III) (A), Caffeinated Beverages: any additional item or ingredient
3	Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011	Regulation 2.10.6 (3) (1), Non-carbonated Water Based Beverages (Non-Alcoholic): herbs other than those specified
4	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Regulation 3 (27): claiming specific health benefits for the listed cereal grains, legumes, fruits, vegetables and spices
5	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Regulation 3 (30): any single purified chemical entity listed in these regulations, except extracts of botanicals
6	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Regulation 3(33): claims for the ingredients or products covered
7	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Regulation 4(6): any other claims that are not drug claims
8	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Regulation 4(9)(iii): product led health claims, notified before putting the product in the market
9	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Regulation 6(2)(iv): inclusion of any new nutrient or other substance
10	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Regulation 7(iv): a nutraceutical not provided in the regulations

11	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Regulation 8(2)(iv) & 9(2)(v): higher Recommended Dietary Allowances in food format (except tablet, capsule, syrup)
12	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Regulation 9(3)(c): the statement "For the dietary management of _____"
13	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Regulation 12 (ii): a plant or botanical ingredient not specified in the regulations
14	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Schedule I: Vitamin D3 (cholecalciferol) from Lichen/Algae
15	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Schedule I: esters, derivatives and salts of vitamins and salts and chelates of minerals (notified in writing)
16	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Schedule II: esters, derivatives, isomers and salts of amino acids (notified in writing)
17	Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016	Schedule VI: chemically synthesized nutraceutical ingredients
18	Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-Specific Food and Food Ingredients) Regulation, 2017	Regulation 3: manufacture or import of any non-specified food or food ingredient
19	Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018	Regulation 11: reduction of disease risk claims other than those that are defined
20	Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020	Regulation 7 (1) (e): L(+) lactic acid producing bacteria in infant formula

21	Any other	Any other food/product/process/system for which prior approval is required by Food Authority under the provisions of the FSS Act, 2006 and regulations made thereunder or as notified from time to time

The office order (PDF, 137 KB)

Source: FSSAI's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on October 28, 2026.

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Read online: indusdesk.com/fssai/insights/fssai-prior-approval-applications-only-through-epaas-from-june-1/