FSSAI

FSSAI sets contaminant limits for pulse flours and seafood

From December 1, 2026, FSSAI extends lead and cadmium limits to pulse flours and sets limits for arsenic in fish oils, safrole and two drugs in seafood.

THE FOOD SAFETY AND Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a notification dated May 14, 2026, F. No. 01/SP-02/S&S/NotificationContaminants/2021-22. It makes the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2026, which further amend the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011. It was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 327, dated May 19, 2026. The regulations come into force on December 1, 2026. FSSAI made them with the previous approval of the Central Government, under clauses (i) and (j) of section 92(2), read with sections 20 and 21, of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

KEY FACTS

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Notification F. No. 01/SP-02/S&S/NotificationContaminants/2021-22, the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2026

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They finalize a draft, the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2024, published by a notification of the same file number dated September 18, 2024. It invited objections and suggestions within sixty days of the date copies of the Gazette were made available to the public, which was September 25, 2024. The notification says FSSAI received none. In the metal contaminants table, the lead entry "Pulses" now reads "Pulses and Pulse flours". The cadmium entry "Pulses, excluding soybean dry" now reads "Pulses and Pulse flours, excluding soybean dry". So the lead and cadmium limits for pulses now also cover pulse flours. The notification does not restate those limits.

For arsenic, the entry "Edible fats and oils (edible fats and oils not covered by individual standards)" gains an asterisk. A new note after the table sets a maximum level (ML) of 0.1 mg/kg of inorganic arsenic (As-in) for fish oils. If a sample's total arsenic is below that level, no further testing is needed and the sample complies. If total arsenic is above it, follow-up testing must show whether inorganic arsenic is above the ML. For Total Aflatoxins and Aflatoxin B1, the food entry "Oilseeds or oil: Oilseeds for further processing Ready to eat" becomes "Oils, and Oilseeds for further processing" and "Ready to eat oilseeds". Their limits are not restated.

In regulation 2.2, on "Crop contaminants and naturally occurring toxic substances", serial number 4 and its entries in the Table in clause 2 of sub-regulation 2.2.1 are replaced. The new entry sets a limit of 10 for "Saffrole" (safrole) in "Beverages and foods containing mace and/or nutmeg kernel as an ingredient". In the Table in clause (4) of sub-regulation 2.3.2, trimethoprim (serial number 45) gains a limit of 0.05 for "Sea foods including shrimps, prawns or any other variety of fish and fishery products". A new serial number 50 sets 0.3 for oxolinic acid in the same foods. The notification prints these three figures without units. In FSSAI's consolidated text of the 2011 regulations (Version IX, February 3, 2026), the safrole limit column is headed "Maximum limits (ppm)" and the clause (4) column "Tolerance limit (mg/Kg)".

Clause (1) of sub-regulation 2.3.2 is omitted. The notification does not reproduce its text, or the safrole entries it replaces. It sets no transition for food made, packed or imported before December 1, 2026. In the Total Aflatoxins entry, the Gazette copy prints "Ready to eat oilseeds" a second time, as a bulleted line. The notification is signed by Rajit Punhani, Chief Executive

Officer. Its note says the 2011 regulations were last amended by notification F.No. 01-SP (PAR)-Notification-Pesticides/Stds-FSSAI/2017, dated October 17, 2024.

Issued by	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
Document	Notification F. No. 01/SP-02/S&S/NotificationContaminants/2021-22, the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2026
Dated	May 14, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 327, May 19, 2026
Takes effect	December 1, 2026
Amends	Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011
Applies to	Pulse flours; fish oils; oils and oilseeds; beverages and foods containing mace and/or nutmeg kernel; sea foods and fishery products
Lead and cadmium	Pulse entries now read "Pulses and Pulse flours"; limits not restated
Inorganic arsenic in fish oils	0.1 mg/kg; total arsenic below that level needs no further testing
Safrole	10 ppm, in beverages and foods containing mace and/or nutmeg kernel as an ingredient
Seafood	Trimethoprim 0.05 mg/kg; oxolinic acid 0.3 mg/kg
Omitted	Clause (1) of sub-regulation 2.3.2
Draft	Notification dated September 18, 2024; Gazette copies made available to the public on September 25, 2024; no objections or suggestions received
Legal basis	Section 92(2)(i) and (j), read with sections 20 and 21, Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
Signed by	Rajit Punhani, Chief Executive Officer

New limits in the notification

Substance	Food	Limit	Unit
Inorganic arsenic (As-in)	Fish oils	0.1	mg/kg

Saffrole	Beverages and foods containing mace and/or nutmeg kernel as an ingredient	10	ppm
Trimethoprim	Sea foods including shrimps, prawns or any other variety of fish and fishery products	0.05	mg/kg
Oxolinic acid	Sea foods including shrimps, prawns or any other variety of fish and fishery products	0.3	mg/kg

The notification (PDF, 811 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-25052026-272840.

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