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GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SAFETY
8th Floor, Mayur Bhawan, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001

No.F.PS/CFS/2026/ 4026

Date: 22/05/2026.

Ref: (1) Redressal of Grievances.

(2) Meeting with Market Associations and Business Representatives

Subject: Rationalization of Food Sample Lifting and Maximization of Coverage of Food Business Operators (FBOs) for Ensuring Safe Food in Delhi.

ORDER

(Under The Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)

Whereas the Department of Food Safety is entrusted with enforcement of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder for ensuring availability of safe and wholesome food for the public at large;

And whereas the number of Food Business Operators (FBOs) in the National Capital Territory of Delhi is continuously increasing, thereby requiring wider surveillance, inspection and sampling coverage in public interest;

And whereas the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Department envisages a structured, risk-based, intelligence-driven and non-repetitive enforcement mechanism with emphasis on maximizing coverage of uncovered Food Business Operators and avoiding duplication of enforcement efforts;

And whereas, as per established practice, now onwards no Food Business Operator are to be subjected to repetitive sample lifting pursuant to recurring complaints within a period of twelve months where the previous sample has already been found conforming to prescribed standards by a notified/NABL accredited laboratory and accepted by any Department of GNCTD;

And whereas Government canteens, Atal Canteens, Mid-Day Meal kitchens and other Government food suppliers are already subjected to periodic food sample testing through NABL accredited/notified laboratories under the terms and conditions of their respective tenders/contracts with the respective govt. departments;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 30(2)(d) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and in order to ensure optimum utilization of departmental resources, wider surveillance coverage and effective enforcement, the following directions are hereby issued:

- 1) **Non-Repetitive Sampling Policy:** Ordinarily, no Food Business Operator (FBO) shall be subjected to repetitive lifting of food samples by the Department of Food Safety within a period of twelve (12) months from the date of previous sampling, provided that:
 - a) the earlier sample was found conforming to prescribed standards; and
 - b) such report was issued by a notified/NABL accredited laboratory and accepted by the concerned Government Department/Authority.
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- 2) **Priority Coverage of Uncovered FBOs:** All Food Safety Officers (FSOs) and concerned officers shall ensure that surveillance and sampling activities are conducted in a manner that maximizes coverage of previously uncovered or uninspected FBOs in accordance with the risk-based enforcement approach same as prescribed under the SOP. Also,
- 3) **Maintenance of Sampling Records:** The concerned Designated Officers (DOs) shall maintain district-wise digital records of sampled FBOs to avoid duplication of sampling and to ensure wider surveillance coverage (besides the sample Registers being maintained at present).
- 4) **Exception in Public Interest:** The restrictions relating to repeat sampling shall not apply in the following circumstances where immediate intervention is considered necessary in public interest and in written/published or notified with the name of FBO(s):
- a) Where specific intelligence inputs are received in writing from Delhi Police, Crime Branch, other law enforcement agencies, Health Department, Govt. of India/Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
 - b) Where credible and verifiable complaints disclose potential public health risks, including cases involving hospitalization or illness allegedly linked to consumption of food from identifiable FBOs as per written inputs received from any Statutory or Constitutional Organisation.
 - c) Confirmed grounds to believe that unsafe, sub-standard, misbranded or adulterated food articles are being manufactured, stored, distributed or sold as per any Govt. Deptt.'s written information.
 - d) Where reliable and widely circulated media/news repetitive reports indicate food safety violations affecting public health;
 - e) Where sampling/inspection of named FBOs is/are specifically requested by any Government Department, statutory authority (like FSSAI), court of law, public representative.
- 5) **Approval for Repeat Sampling:** Any proposal for repeat inspection or repeat sampling within the aforesaid twelve-month period shall require prior written approval of the Commissioner (Food Safety). The Inspection Order issued in such cases shall specifically record the reasons justifying such repeat action in consonance with point (4) as above.
- 6) **Applicability and Harmonious Construction:** These directions shall be read harmoniously with the SOP dated 14.05.2026, the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Rules, Regulations, guidelines and other directions issued from time to time.
- 7) **Non-Derogation Clause:** Nothing contained herein shall curtail, dilute or restrict the statutory powers of inspection, sampling, seizure, investigation or prosecution vested under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules/Regulations framed thereunder.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


COMMISSIONER (FOOD SAFETY)

Copy for necessary action to:

1. PS to Commissioner (Food Safety), Department of Food Safety, GNCT of Delhi.
2. All DOs / FSOs, Lab Officials, other officers & officials of Food Safety Department, Whatsapp groups, Department of Food Safety, GNCT of Delhi.
3. Guard File