

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SAFETY**

8th Floor, Mayur Bhawan, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001

No. F/DFS/2026/2236

Dated: 24/07/26

CIRCULAR-CUM-EXPRESSION OF INTREST

Subject: Circular-cum-Expression of Interest (EOI) from FSSAI-Notified and NABL-Accredited Food Testing Laboratories for Analysis of Food Samples under Section 47 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The Department of Food Safety, Government of NCT of Delhi, is entrusted with the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act, 2006) and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. In discharge of its statutory functions, the Department regularly draws food samples under Section 38 of the Act and is required to have such samples analyzed by Food Testing Laboratories notified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in accordance with Section 47 of the FSS Act, 2006.

2. The principal objective of food sample analysis is to enable the Department to take prompt regulatory and preventive action for safeguarding public health. Timely availability of analytical reports is essential for initiating enforcement measures against unsafe, sub-standard or misbranded food articles, including seizure, recall, prohibition of sale, prosecution and other statutory actions, wherever warranted.
3. Although the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 prescribes a statutory period for submission of analytical reports, the Department has observed that reports received towards the end of the prescribed period may not always facilitate timely preventive intervention, particularly in cases involving food safety risks or special enforcement drives. Delay in receipt of analytical reports may result in continued availability of unsafe food in the market, thereby exposing consumers to avoidable health risks. Therefore, in the larger public interest, the Department intends to ensure that analytical reports are received at the earliest possible time without compromising the quality, reliability and integrity of testing.
4. With the increase in surveillance activities, enforcement drives, festival sampling, special campaigns and public complaints, the volume of food samples requiring analysis has increased considerably. Accordingly, the Department considers it necessary to engage the services of multiple competent FSSAI-notified and NABL-accredited Food Testing Laboratories so that the testing workload can be distributed efficiently, turnaround time can be minimized and prompt enforcement action can be taken wherever required.
5. It is pertinent to mention that the Department had earlier convened a meeting of representatives of FSSAI-notified and NABL-accredited Food Testing Laboratories to discuss the modalities for analysis of food samples. Thereafter, the laboratories were also contacted telephonically and requested to furnish the requisite documents for verification of their credentials, NABL accreditation, infrastructure, analytical capability and other relevant particulars. However, the desired response was not received from all the

laboratories. Accordingly, the Department has decided to invite a fresh **Expression of Interest (EOI)** from eligible laboratories.

Accordingly, applications are invited from **FSSAI-notified and NABL-accredited Food Testing Laboratories located in the National Capital Territory of Delhi** fulfilling the following requirements: **Eligibility Criteria**

1. The laboratory shall be a laboratory notified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 for analysis of food samples.
2. The laboratory shall possess a valid National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) Accreditation Certificate along with the current Scope of Accreditation covering the relevant food categories and testing parameters proposed to be analyzed.
3. The laboratory shall have the capability and necessary infrastructure to undertake analysis of both **Enforcement Samples** and **Surveillance Samples** in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations framed thereunder.
4. The laboratory shall accept only those food samples for analysis for which all the parameters requisitioned by the Department are covered under its valid NABL Scope of Accreditation. Samples requiring analysis of parameters outside the accredited scope shall not be accepted.
5. The laboratory shall have an operational office or sample collection centre within the National Capital Territory of Delhi. In case the laboratory does not have such a facility in Delhi, it shall provide, at its own cost, a reliable pick-up and delivery facility for collection and transportation of food samples from the Department's offices/laboratories in Delhi, ensuring maintenance of sample integrity, chain of custody, and prescribed timelines.

Sample Collection

The laboratory shall:

- Arrange collection of food samples from the Department on call basis at their own cost.
- Ensure collection of samples on the same day of intimation, wherever feasible.

Turnaround Time

1. The laboratory shall make every endeavor to furnish analytical reports within **2-5 working days** from the date of receipt of samples or minimum time taken for the test whichever is higher.
2. Wherever feasible, a preliminary analytical finding may be communicated within **24-48 hours**, followed by the final signed analytical report.
3. During festival seasons, special enforcement drives, surveillance programs, food safety campaigns or any other emergent operations undertaken by the Department, the

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laboratory shall accord top priority to such samples and submit analytical reports within the shortest possible time.

4. The laboratory shall submit hard copies of all sample analysis reports to the concerned Designated Officer(s) within the prescribed time limit. In addition, hard copies of the analysis reports pertaining to non-conforming, sub-standard, unsafe, misbranded, or otherwise failed samples shall also be forwarded to the Commissioner (Food Safety).
5. The laboratory shall have the necessary infrastructure and capability to upload sample analysis reports on the prescribed FSSAI portals/web-based systems, including FoSCoS, INFOLNET, or any other portal notified by FSSAI from time to time. Compliance with such online reporting requirements shall be mandatory.
6. Preference may be given to laboratories demonstrating the capability to provide shorter turnaround times for analysis, while ensuring adherence to the prescribed analytical methods, quality standards, NABL accreditation requirements, and the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations framed thereunder.

Testing Charges

1. Testing charges shall be payable as per the approved rates applicable to the respective food category and testing parameters.
2. The quoted rates shall remain valid unless revised with mutual consent or in accordance with applicable Government/FSSAI guidelines.

Confidentiality

1. The laboratory shall furnish an undertaking confirming that it shall maintain strict confidentiality of all food samples, analytical reports, test results and all related information/data received from the Department of Food Safety, Government of NCT of Delhi. Such information shall not be disclosed, published, circulated or shared with any person, organization or agency except with the prior written approval of the Department or as required under law. The laboratory shall also ensure that its officials do not communicate directly with Food Business Operators or any other person regarding Departmental samples without authorization.

Documents to be submitted

Interested laboratories shall submit:

1. Name and complete postal address of the laboratory.
2. Valid NABL Accreditation Certificate.
3. Current NABL Scope of Accreditation.
4. FSSAI Notification/Recognition Certificate.
5. List of food categories and testing parameters covered under the NABL Scope of Accreditation (PDF).
6. Details of sample collection/logistics arrangements.

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7. Schedule of testing charges.
8. Indicative Turnaround Time (TAT).
9. Name, designation, mobile number and e-mail address of the authorized contact person.
10. Undertaking regarding confidentiality of food samples, analytical reports and related information.

The above documents/information shall be submitted by e-mail to **Deputy Commissioner (Food Safety)** within **07 days** and a signed hard copy shall also be submitted to the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of issuance of this Circular.

The Department reserves the right to verify the credentials, infrastructure, manpower, analytical capability, NABL Scope of Accreditation and other particulars furnished by the laboratories. Preference may be accorded to laboratories having a wider NABL Scope of Accreditation, shorter turnaround time and better logistical capability. Submission of this EOI shall not confer any right upon any laboratory for allocation of food sample testing work. Allocation of samples shall be made solely at the discretion of the Department based on administrative requirements, technical competence and public interest.


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