INDIALAW

Food Safety and Regulatory Compliance

Food Safety and FSSAI Compliance Law Firm in India for Licensing and Audits

PRACTICE PROFILE • OCTOBER 2026

Overview

We assist clients across the food value chain including manufacturers, processors, importers, distributors, and retailers in ensuring full compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the comprehensive framework of regulations issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Our advisory covers both day-to-day operational compliance and strategic legal issues arising from regulatory changes, inspections, product launches, and enforcement actions.

Our services extend from licensing and registration to support in audits, crisis management during enforcement actions, and structuring internal controls for product traceability and safety. We also offer regulatory guidance for complex product categories such as nutraceuticals, health supplements, proprietary foods, and novel ingredients. For clients involved in international trade, we advise on import/export compliance, Codex alignment, and global labelling standards.

Our Services

- Advising on compliance with Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
- FSSAI licensing and compliance for manufacturers, importers, and retailers across food categories
- Labeling reviews and ingredient compliance
- Risk mitigation during inspections and product seizures
- Drafting SOPs on traceability, sanitation, and temperature control
- Guidance on nutraceutical, proprietary, and novel food regulations
- Import/export compliance for food products
- Representations before the Commissioner of Food Safety

Key Professionals



Rahul Sundaram

Partner

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 **What does food safety and regulatory compliance practice cover in India?**

It covers advisory across the food value chain on FSSAI licensing, labelling and ingredient compliance, product approvals, import and export clearances, traceability systems, and representation before the Commissioner of Food Safety during enforcement proceedings.

Q2 **When should a food business seek regulatory compliance advice in India?**

Before launching a new product, entering a new food category such as nutraceuticals or novel foods, importing ingredients, facing an FSSAI inspection, or responding to a product recall notice. Early engagement reduces the risk of seizures, penalties, or licence suspension.

Q3 **Which law and regulator govern food safety compliance in India?**

The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is the primary statute. FSSAI is the central regulator and issues detailed regulations on licensing, labelling, packaging, food additives, contaminants, and product standards. State Commissioners of Food Safety handle enforcement and adjudication.

Q4 How long does it take to obtain an FSSAI licence for food manufacturing?

A central FSSAI licence typically takes 30 to 60 days from filing a complete application, though timelines vary with product category and state authority responsiveness. Delays usually stem from incomplete documentation, facility non-compliance, or the need for product approvals for novel ingredients.

Q5 What documents are needed to start FSSAI licensing or a compliance review?

Key documents include the entity's incorporation certificate, product formulations and ingredient lists, manufacturing unit layout and address proof, existing licences or registrations, lab test reports, and labelling artwork. For imports, the Bill of Entry and foreign supplier certifications are also required.

Q6 What common compliance mistakes do food businesses make with FSSAI regulations?

Frequent errors include mislabelling nutritional values or allergen declarations, failing to update licences when adding product categories, non-compliance with packaging and shelf life norms, and inadequate traceability records. Each of these can trigger show cause notices, product recalls, or penalties under the Act.

Related Practice Areas

Statutory And Regulatory Compliance | BIS and Standards Compliance | Legal Metrology Compliance | ESG and Sustainability Compliance | Foreign Exchange and FDI Compliance | Labor and Employment Compliance