APRIL 2026

NEWSLETTER

FSSAI & CDSCO (COSMETICS AND MEDICAL DEVICE) ORDERS, ADVISORIES, NOTIFICATIONS, DIRECTIONS.

CONSULTANCY

ABOUT US

Move Ahead is a trusted regulatory compliance partner with over a decade of expertise in delivering strategic, end-to-end solutions across the Food, Nutraceuticals, Cosmetics, and Medical Devices sectors. With a strong focus on precision, efficiency, and industry insight, we enable businesses to seamlessly navigate complex regulatory landscapes.

From import assistance to customs clearance support, Move Ahead offers integrated solutions designed to accelerate approvals and build compliance confidence empowering brands to enter and expand in the market with clarity and assurance. We help organizations simplify and accelerate market entry through comprehensive services, streamline business operations, and ensure adherence to applicable laws and regulatory requirements.

THIS MONTHS HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL UPDATES	6
ORDER/ DIRECTIONS	3
PRESS RELEASE	0
GAZZETTE	0
DRAFT	3

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Public Notice on System improvement in payment workflow for visual inspection and laboratory testing charges in FICS/ SWIFT to enhance ease of doing business.

FSSAI has relaxed its payment requirements in the import clearance workflow. Importers can now make fee payments after visual inspection and sampling, rather than before, allowing both processes to run simultaneously and reducing overall clearance time.

Note that final clearance certificates (PNOC/NOC/NCC) will continue to be issued only upon full payment of applicable fees. Corresponding system updates have been made in FICS, integrated with SWIFT/ICEGATE, and all stakeholders including importers, customs brokers, and laboratories have been notified.

Date of Notification: 10th April 2026

Monitering the Sale of Fresh Fruits for the Use of Unauthorized or Prohibited Artificial Ripening Agents.

FSSAI has issued an advisory regarding strict monitoring of artificial ripening practices in fresh fruits. It reiterates that the use of calcium carbide ("masala") for ripening fruits such as mangoes, bananas, papayas, etc. is prohibited due to associated health risks.

Additionally, FSSAI has observed the practice of dipping fruits in ethephon solution for ripening, which is also not permitted. The authority has clarified that fruits and vegetables must not come into direct contact with ethylene in powder or liquid form, and only approved ethylene gas-based ripening methods should be followed.

State/UT Food Safety Authorities and Regional Directors have been instructed to intensify inspections at fruit markets, storage facilities, wholesalers, and distributors. Special enforcement drives may be conducted against the use of prohibited ripening agents, wax, and synthetic colours.

FSSAI has also shared a strip paper testing procedure for detection of acetylene gas in ripening chambers/godowns, which may be used during enforcement activities.

Date of Notification: 16th April 2026

Draft Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Amendment Regulations, 2026, regarding the inclusion of the list of packaging materials for pan masala.

FSSAI has issued a draft amendment to the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, inviting stakeholder comments within a 30-day period. The proposed amendment introduces specific packaging requirements for pan masala, restricting the use of materials to paper, paperboard, or other naturally derived substances that are completely free from plastics, synthetic polymers, laminates, and aluminum or metallized layers.

Additionally, the use of plastic materials, including PVC and related copolymers, has been explicitly prohibited for packaging of pan masala, as well as gutkha and other tobacco products.

Date of Notification: 28th April, 2026
Last date for Comments: Within 30 days of Publication

Direction under Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 regarding enforcement of the new standards for Meat Sausages notified under Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2025.

FSSAI has further extended the compliance timeline for the newly notified Meat Sausages standards under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2025.

Following an earlier three-month extension from 1st February 2026, and in response to representations from the meat industry citing technical and practical challenges along with an ongoing scientific study and risk assessment, the compliance deadline has been extended by an additional six months from 1st May 2026.

Date of Notification: 28th April 2026
Date of Implementation: 1st November 2026

Medical Device
Draft Amendments to Medical Devices Rules, 2017

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued draft amendments to the Medical Devices Rules, 2017. Key proposals include omission of the words “of a license” from change in constitution and introduction of a definition for “Certificate of Registration” issued by State or Central Licensing Authorities.
Further, the draft mandates declaration of the sterilization site manufacturing licence number by preceding the words “Sterilization sites Manufacturing License Number” or “Ster. Mfg. Lic. No.” or “S.M. L” on product labels where sterilization is outsourced. It also introduces a Ninth Schedule prescribing testing and evaluation fees with annual increase, and aligns provisions requiring payment of such fees for related applications.

Date of Notification: 10 April, 2026

Medical Device
Draft Amendments to Medical Devices Rules, 2017

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued draft amendments to the Medical Devices Rules, 2017. The proposals include inclusion of “Quality Management System” along with standards for Class A non-sterile and non-measuring medical devices, strengthening regulatory requirements and documentation obligations for such categories. Further, the draft revises the heading related to government medical device testing laboratories and expands recognized jurisdictions to include European Union countries. It also proposes extension of clinical investigation data waiver provisions to devices approved in these jurisdictions, subject to existing conditions of safety, performance, and prior market use.

Date of Notification: 10 April, 2026

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT

FSSAI through its advisory dated 16 April 2026, has clarified that Ashwagandha *(Withania somnifera*) leaves are not permitted for use in any food products, including nutraceuticals, health supplements, and FSMPs. As per existing regulations, only the roots of Ashwagandha and their extracts are approved for use under Schedule IV, while the use of leaves in any form, whether raw or as extracts, is prohibited.

This position is further supported by the Ministry of Ayush, which has raised safety concerns due to the higher concentration of certain withanolides, such as Withaferin-A, in the leaves. Food Business Operators are required to ensure immediate compliance with this directive, as non-compliance may invite action under the FSS Act, 2006, with authorities instructed to enforce strict monitoring and regulatory control.