

F. No. REG-11/1/2022-Regulation-FSSAI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
 (A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)
 (Regulation division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110 002

Dated, the 12th October, 2022

Subject: Clarification with respect to the qualification of Food Safety Officer -reg.

Rule 2.1.3(1) of Food safety and Standards Rules, 2011 specifies:-

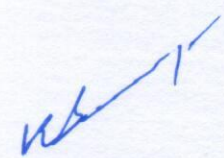
"Food Safety Officer shall be a whole time officer and shall, on the date on which he is so appointed possesses the following: (i) a degree in Food Technology or Dairy Technology or Biotechnology or Oil Technology or Agricultural Science or Veterinary Sciences or Bio-Chemistry or Microbiology or Masters Degree in Chemistry or degree in medicine from a recognized University, or (ii) any other equivalent/recognized qualification notified by the Central Government."

2. Many representations and RTIs have been received from stakeholders from time to time seeking clarifications in respect of the terms "Degree", "Degree in Medicine" and "equivalent/recognized qualification" specified in the qualifications of FSO in these Rules.

3. In this context, for the purpose of qualification of Food Safety Officer specified in Rule 2.1.3(1) of Food safety and Standards Rules, 2011, it may be clarified that:-

- i. The "degree" means the degrees as prescribed in Sub-section (3) of Section 22 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956).
- ii. For the "Degree in Medicine", Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad in the matter of WP No. 2754 of 2015 Dr. Amit Pandey and ORs. Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and Ors observed that the degree in Medicine does not include any other system of medicine and it will not be proper to include or read any other degree awarded by councils under other acts in to degree of Medicine. Medicine is defined only under Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and not in other enactments.
- iii. In respect of the "equivalent qualification", the Central Government has not notified any such equivalent qualification so far. Hence, the only qualifications specified for the Food Safety Officer in the above-mentioned rules are applicable for the post of Food Safety Officer.

4. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


V.K. Pancham
Director (Regulations)

To
All Food Safety Commissioner

Copy for information to:

1. PPS to Chairperson, FSSAI
2. PS to CEO, FSSAI