

# Introduction to Food Safety Laws

# Definition

- **Food law** - collection of **laws and regulations** that govern **food** production, distribution and consumption.
- **Food laws** aim to protect consumers and provide for the efficient growth and use of **food** in the United States.
- In addition, they work on behalf of government agencies making or enforcing **food laws** and policies.

# Reasons for Food Laws existence

- Maintain food quality
- Prevent exploitation of the consumer of the consumer by the sellers.
- Safeguard the health of the consumers.
- Establish criteria for food products.

## Food Standards:

- Protect people from health hazards because of adulteration.
- National standards are set to safeguard consumer health and ensure fair food trade practices.

# Indian Standards

- FAO and WHO set international standards for all the principal foods – processed, semi-processed or raw.
- Indian standards are based on international codex alimentarius with suitable modifications
  - Compulsory Standards
  - Voluntary Standards

# Compulsory Standards

Includes set of Acts and Orders, deal with food quality and adulteration.


1. Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954
2. Essential Commodities Act, 1954
  - ❖ Fruit Products Order, 1955
  - ❖ Meat Products Control Order, 1973
  - ❖ Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992
  - ❖ Solvent Extracted oils, De-oiled Meal and Edible Flour Control Order, 1967
  - ❖ Vegetable Products Control Order, 1976
  - ❖ Standards on Weights and Measures Rules 1977

# Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954

- The PFA Act was passed in 1954 and PFA Rules were framed in 1955 to protect the consumers against the supply of inferior quality or adulterated food.
- In recent years the Govt. of India has enacted another Act known as “The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006”, abbreviated as FSS Act 2006.
- The regulations under this act have come into force from Aug, 2011.

# OBJECTIVES of PFA

- To protect the public from harmful and poisonous foods.
- To prevent the sale of substandard food containing harmful substances, and
- To protect the society against unscrupulous and anti-social dealers by eliminating fraudulent practices.

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- PFA standards are formulated and revised by an expert body called Central Committee for Food standards (CCFS) under the Directorate General of health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
  - It is the CCFS which advises the Central Govt. and the State Govt. on matters arising out of the administration of PFA Act.
  - It is a very heavy committee .People from all the States and the Union Territories (UTs) and all the major Ministries and departments are





## Fruit Products Order - FP

- Issued by the Ministry of Food processing Industry which also develops the standards for this mark.
- The mark was named after the law called Fruit Products offer.
- FPO mark guarantees that the product was manufactured in a hygienic environment and to the specifications and quality control requirements, thus ensuring that the product is fit for consumption.

# FPO certification is mandatory for all food processing industries

- Synthetic beverages, Syrups and sharbat
- Vinegar whether brewed or Synthetic
- Pickles, Dehydrated fruits and vegetables
- Squashes, crushes, cordials, barley water
- Jam, jellies and marmalades, Chutneys
- Tomato products, ketchup and sauces
- Preserved, candied and crystallised fruits and peels
- Canned and bottled fruits, juices, pulps and vegetables
- Frozen Fruit and vegetables
- Sweetened aerated water with or without fruit juices and pulp

## FPO - Objectives

- The main objective is lay down quality standards to manufacture fruit & vegetable products maintaining sanitary and hygienic conditions in the premises.
- It is mandatory for all manufacturers of fruit and vegetable products including some non fruit products like non fruit vinegar, syrup and sweetened aerated water to obtain a license under this Order.

# Meat Products Control Order - 1973

- Controls the manufacture, quality and distribution of all raw and processed meat and meat products.
- Order is regulated by Directorate of marketing and Inspection.
- Requires meat to be obtained from healthy animals, slaughtered in a licensed slaughter house and is fit for consumption.

## Milk and Milk Products order - 1992

- Applicable to large units handling more than 10,000 litres milk/day or milk products containing milk solids in excess of 500 tonnes /year.
- The production, sale, purchase and distribution of milk powder and milk powdered is covered.

# Solvent Extracted Oils, De-Oiled Meal and Edible Flour control Order 1967 and Vegetable Products Control Order 1976

- The manufacture of these products controlled by this order
- It stipulates that any vegetable oil product, unless it conforms to the standards of quality and offers requirements for vanaspathi or bakery shortening or margarine, shall not be manufactured, stocked or sold.

# Standards on Weights and Measures Rules 1977

- It is obligatory to declare the quantity of the packed commodity on the label.

# Voluntary Standards

- Bureau of Indian Standards
- Agricultural Produce Act 1937



BIS hallmark



Agmark



ISI mark



# Bureau of Indian Standards (B.I.S)

- It is a national standards body of India - responsible for formulating National Standards for various types of articles (both edible & non-edible i.e. food & non-food articles e.g. live stock feed, cattle housing, equipments, dairy products, food additives, food hygiene), testing apparatus and methods etc.
- The old name of this organization was ISI (*Indian Standards Institution*), which was established in 1947. The new name i.e. BIS came into existence from 1st April, 1987 under the BIS Act 1986.

# OBJECTIVES and FUNCTIONS OF BIS

- To formulate Indian standards for various articles, processes, methods of test, codes of practices etc and promote their implementation.
- To promote the Concepts of standardization and Quality control in industries.
- To coordinate the efforts of producers and users for making improvements in the materials, products, processes and methods.
- To operate ISI certification scheme.
- To establish testing laboratories of its own.
- To operate laboratory recognition scheme to meet the requirements of testing.
- To offer technical and consultancy services within and outside the country.
- To have cooperation and coordination with international standard making bodies like ISO.
- BIS is a member of ISO and IEC

ISO- international organization for standardization.

IEC- international electro-technical commission.

# Agriculture Produce (Grading and Marking) Act (AGMARK)

- Agmark stands for "Agricultural Marking".
- Indian Legislature in 1937 passed an act known as "Agriculture Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 act is not mandatory. Agmark is the exclusive property of Govt. of India.
- Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI) is the authority on the Agmark whose head quarter is now at Faridabad and branched head quarter is at Nagpur.
- It is the DMI which enforces the Agricultural Produce Act, 1937.
- standards are given for agricultural and allied commodities like cereals, oil seeds, oils, creamery butter, ghee, legumes, eggs etc. Agricultural commodities are categorized into various grades such as, special, good, fair, ordinary etc depending upon the degree of quality (type of composition) in each case

# Objectives of Agmark

- To assure the consumers a product of pre-tested quality & purity.
- To enable the producer of good quality products to have better returns.
- To have a sale of the product in the market with a uniform composition and well defined quality.
- To eliminate the malpractice of adulteration in the movement of the product from producer to consumer.



Food Standards are  
necessary to control and  
check quality of food available  
to customers