



GOVERNMENT OF SINDH  
FOOD DEPARTMENT

**NOTIFICATION**

**No.SOF/Rules-SFA/(6)/2023:-** In exercise of the powers conferred under section 60 of Sindh Food Authority Act, 2016, the Government of Sindh, is pleased to make the following rules for Food Business namely:

**1. Short title, commencement and application** (1) These Rules shall be called the Sindh Food Authority Rules of Business, 2023.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

(3) They shall apply to all food business establishments in the Province of Sindh, wherever they may be.

**2. Definitions:** (1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires the following expressions shall have the meaning hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:-

- (i) "Act" means the Sindh Food Authority Act, 2016 (Sindh Act NO.XIV of 2017);
- (ii) "Department" means Food Department, Government of Sindh;
- (iii) "Authority" means the Sindh Food Authority established under section 3;
- (iv) "DG" means the Director General of the SFA appointed under the Act;
- (v) "Food premises", means any premises used for the purpose of a food business;
- (vi) "Food Safety Officer (FSO)" means the officer appointed by the Authority for the purpose of inspection, enforcement, monitoring of food establishment and food chain business and such other duties as assigned to it under the Act and rules or regulations made thereunder;
- (vii) "Food Safety Auditor (FSA)" means a person with necessary competency in food safety designated authorized by SFA to conduct an audit.
- (viii) "Food business" means any undertaking, whether or not for profit carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of manufacturing, processing, packaging, storage, transportation, distribution of food, import, export and includes food services, catering services, sale of food or food ingredients;

- (ix) "Food operator" means a person or company or association of person who manufactures for sale transport, stores, sells, distributes, import or exports food;
- (x) "Prescribed" means prescribed by the rules or regulations.
- (xi) "Public analyst" means a public analyst appointed under this Act;
- (xii) "SFA" means the Sindh Food Authority established under the Act;

(2) The words and phrases used but not defined in these rules shall have same meanings as are assigned to them in the Act and Rules and Regulations made under the Act.

**3. Duties of Food Authority:** (1) It shall be the duty of Food Authority to:

- a) Maintain the record of each and every transaction with respect to the Act, Rules and Regulation thereto in the Authority.
- b) The Authority shall provide the vision to the Food handlers / Food Business Operator(s) (FBOs) with reference to Food safety and hygienic criteria as per provision of National and International standards.
- c) Take steps for the creation of the post of one Food Safety Officer for every two hundred thousand (200,000) population or two hundred Food Business(s);
- d) Ensure that the Food Safety Officer collects a minimum of 100 samples a month;
- e) Authority may advise the government about new practices Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) and Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), laws, polices in food business for making necessary amendment in their laws pertaining on need basis or whenever needed.
- f) Authority will work to the existing food testing Labs, to make them effective for public delivery and to propose the Government for the adoption of food labs for making them more functional under the Authority.
- g) Authority will work with other provincial and Federal Authorities, academic, institutes and organizations.
- h) Authority will manage the training regarding Food Safety Programs at the National and International level.
- i) Maintain permanent record of the prosecution of food offenders and of the revenues from the costs realized; and

(2) The Authority shall, within a period of seven days of the receipt of copies of the report of the result of analysis, before initiating prosecution, forward a copy of the report of the said analysis, by registered post or by hand, to the person from



whom the sample of the article was taken by the Food Safety Officer and also to the person, if any, whose name, address and other particulars have been disclosed.

**4. Food Safety Officer.** Every FSO appointed under the Act shall be furnished by the SFA with a certificate of appointment as an FSO in the Form A. The certificate shall be carried by the FSO at all times while he is on duty and shall, on demand, be produced by him.

- a. While appointing an FSO the SFA shall consider the competence of the FSO with relation to the assignment and the criteria specified by National or International Standardization Organizations.
- b. On appointment, a Food Safety Officer shall receive three months' training in food inspection and sampling work in an institution approved for the purpose by the Government.
- c. The SFA may, on the request of the FSO or otherwise associate with him any person who has adequate technical qualification, experience and knowledge in that field or task assigned to the FSO.
- d. Every applicant for a license or every licensee shall afford to the FSO such reasonable facilities as the FSO may require for carrying out the duties imposed on him under the Act and rules and regulations made under the Act.
- e. The Sindh Food Authority and such other officers in the service of the Government as have qualification prescribed in sub-rule (1) or as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, specify in this behalf, shall be *ex-officio* Food Safety Officers in respect of all foods within the limits of their respective jurisdiction.

**5. Duties of Food Safety Officer:** (1) It shall be the duty of a Food Safety Officer:

- (a) To inspect, as frequently as may be prescribed by the Food Authority or the Local Authority, all establishments licensed for the manufacture, storage, or sale of an article of food within the area assigned to him;
- (b) To satisfy himself that the conditions of a license are being observed;
- (c) To procure and send for analysis, samples of any article of food which he has reason to suspect are being manufactured, stocked or sold or exhibited for sale in contravention to the provisions of the Act or these Rules;
- (d) To maintain a record of all inspections made and action taken by him in the performance of his duties, including the taking of samples to send for analysis in prescribed storage conditions and the seizure of stocks, and to submit copies of such record to the Health Officer of the Food Authority as directed in this behalf;
- (e) To make such inquiries and inspections as may be necessary to detect the manufacture, storage or sale of articles of food in



contravention of the Act or these Rules;

- (f) Perform such other duties as may be entrusted to him by the Health Officer having jurisdiction in the local area or the Food Authority.

(2) A Food Safety Officer shall maintain the record of the court decisions of each case, as the case may be, for the production as evidence of the facts contained therein the name, address, the nature and the location of the business for which a license has been granted or suspended, in any enquiry, trial or other proceedings under this Rule; and, shall send a copy of the court decision of each case under this Rule to the concerned Food Authority.

(3) When so authorized by the Sindh Food Authority, having jurisdiction in the local area concerned or the Food Authority, a Food Safety Officer may detain an imported package which, he has reason to suspect, contains the food the import or sale of which is prohibited.

(4) On receipt of a complaint in writing about the contravention of the any provisions of the Act or these Rules, the Food Safety Officer shall investigate the complaint and, where necessary, shall seize a sample in fulfillment of the requirements.

**6. Appointment of Public Analyst:** (1) No person shall be appointed as Public Analyst unless he holds the qualification of Ph.D. in Food Technology/Food Sciences /Agricultural Food Science and Technology and has at least three years practical experience in the analysis of food.

(2) If a person of the qualifications mentioned in sub-rule (1) is not available, the person holding the qualification of M. Phil Food Technology/Food Sciences/ Agricultural Food Science and Technology or in Biochemistry and has at least five years practical experience in the analysis of food shall be appointed by SFA as Public Analyst.

(3) Nothing in this rule shall affect the appointment of Public Analysts made before the coming into force of these rules.

**7. Duties of Public Analyst:** (1) On receipt of a package containing a sample for analysis from an FSO or any other person, an officer authorized by the Public Analyst, shall compare the seals on the package and the outer cover of the sample with specimen impression received and shall note the condition of the seals thereon;

(2) The Authorized Analyst shall cause to be analyzed such samples of articles of food as may be sent to him by an FSO or by an officer authorized by the SFA.

(3) After the analysis, or decoding the analysis report, the Public Analyst shall, within a period of twenty days from the receipt of any sample for analysis, deliver or send to the SFA, two copies of the certificate in the Form specified under the Act or Rules and Regulations made under the Act, or decoding the analysis report, showing the result of such analysis.



**8. Auditing of Food Safety Program:** (1) All food establishments shall ensure that the food safety program is audited by the SFA annually.

(2) The Food Safety Program of any food establishment audited planned/unplanned by FSO / FSA or that is pre-scheduled and notified before fifteen days. Maximum four members conduct audit (visit) including one member from respective food association or chamber of commerce.

(3) The food establishments shall make available all relevant records, with relation to the Food Safety Program to any Food Safety Auditor performing his duty under these Rules, Regulations and Act.

(4) The food establishments shall retain copies written records of all written reports of the results of all audits of the food safety program conducted by a food safety auditor within the last four years, for inspection upon request by a food safety auditor who audits the food safety program or any other authorized Auditor technical person by the DG.

**9. Report of seizure and detention:** (1) where any FSO makes any seizure or detention of the article or process, as the case may be, he shall within twenty fourhours/ forty-eight hours of seizure or detention make full report of all the particulars of such seizure and detention to the SFA.

(2) The SFA on such report may confirm or otherwise the seizure or detention. If the same is not confirmed the FSO shall forthwith comply with the direction of the SFA.

(3) On the confirmation of seizure or detention the SFA shall give directions with regard to the custody of articles seized or detained.

**SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF SINDH**