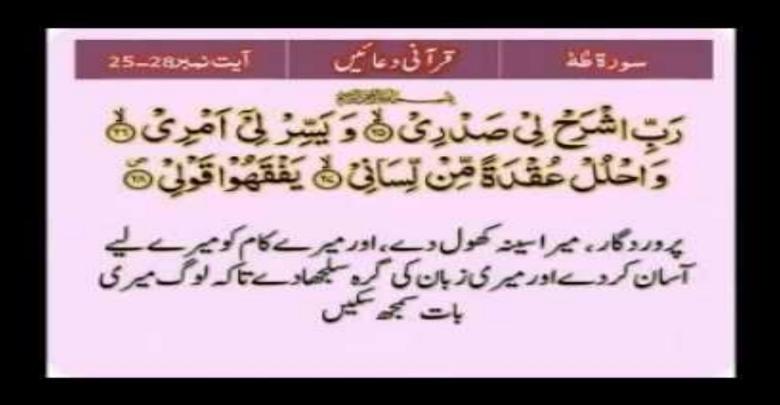


FSQM - Dr. Shahid Mahmood Rana



# رَّبِّ زِدْنِی عِلْمًا

My Lord! Increase me in knowledge.

# FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT

#### **DHND**

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#### **FSQM**

# L # 38. FOOD LAWS / REGULATIONS IN PAKISTAN

#### STATUS OF FOOD LAWS / REGULATIONS IN PAKISTAN

- Pakistan does not have an integrated legal framework but has a set of laws, which deals with various aspects of FOOD SAFETY.
- These laws, despite the fact that they were enacted long time ago, have tremendous capacity to achieve at least minimum level of food safety.
- These laws remain very poorly enforced.

#### **FOOD LAWS**

- There are FOUR laws that specifically deal with FOOD SAFETY.
- Three of these laws directly focus issues related to Food Safety,
- while the FOURTH, the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority Act, is indirectly relevant to FOOD SAFETY.

#### THE PURE FOOD ORDINANCE-1960

- The Pure Food Ordinance 1960 consolidates and amends the law in relation to the Preparation and the Sale of Foods.
- All Provinces and some northern areas have adopted this law with certain amendments.
- Its AIM is to Ensure Purity of Food being supplied to people in the market and, therefore, provides for preventing ADULTERATION.

#### THE CANTONMENT PURE FOOD ACT-1966

- The Pure Food Ordinance 1960 does not apply to cantonment areas.
- There is a separate law for cantonments called "The Cantonment Pure Food Act, 1966".
- There is no substantial difference between the Pure Food Ordinance 1960 and The Cantonment Pure Food Act.
- Even the rules of operation are very much similar.

#### PAKISTAN HOTELS AND RESTAURANT ACT-1976

- Pakistan Hotels and Restaurant Act, 1976 applies to all Hotels and Restaurants in Pakistan and seeks to Control and Regulate the RATES and STANDARD of SERVICE(S) by hotels and restaurants.
- In addition to other provisions, under section 22(2), the Sale of Food or Beverages that are Contaminated, not prepared hygienically or served in utensils that are not hygienic or clean is an OFFENSE.

#### PAKISTAN HOTELS AND RESTAURANT ACT-1976

- There are no express provisions for consumer complaints in the Pakistan Restaurants Act, 1976,
   Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 and Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority Act, 1996.
- The laws do not prevent citizens from lodging complaints with the concerned government officials; however, the consideration and handling of complaints is a matter of Discretion of the Officials.

#### **CURRENT STATUS**

- Pakistan's food imports are regulated by the federal government
- Food safety standards are regulated by the provincial governments.
- Pakistan's 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment devolved most of the functions including agriculture to the provinces.
- As a result of this devolution, the provincial governments are developing their own different sanitary and phytosanitary regulations which are beginning to introduce inconsistency in regulations across Pakistan.
- Due to week enforcement, these changes are not impacting trade of goods between provincial borders yet.
- The Federal Government is aware of the potential problems and is reviewing their options under the 18th Amendment.

# FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS - ESTABLISHED AND PUBLISHED

- In the Pakistan Pure Food Laws (PFL) of 1963 and revised in 2007. Pakistan Pure Food Laws, 2011
- The PFL is the basis for the existing trade-related food quality and safety legislative framework.
- It covers 104 food items falling under nine broad categories:
- MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS
- EDIBLE OILS AND FAT PRODUCTS
- BEVERAGES
- FOOD GRAINS AND CEREALS
- STARCHY FOOD
- SPICES AND CONDIMENTS
- SWEETENING AGENTS
- FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
- MISCELLANEOUS FOOD PRODUCTS.

#### **FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS**

These regulations address purity issues in raw food and deal with

- Food Additives
- Food Preservatives
- Food and Synthetic Color
- Antioxidants
- Heavy Metals

#### REGULATION OF IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS

- The Federal Government applies Codex Standards and Guidelines in its regulation of Imported food products.
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration standards also are used for certain products.
- A list of permissible Food Color is updated every year.
- For animal products, "Halal" certification (slaughtered in accordance with Islamic law) is required.
- Pakistan, as a member of International Organization for Standardization (ISO), continues to harmonize standards with International requirements.

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# L # 39. PAKISTANIS NATIONAL STANDARDS

#### PAKISTANIS NATIONAL STANDARDS

- Pakistan's national standards cover agriculture, foodstuffs, chemicals and textiles.
- However, enforcement remains poor due primarily to limited inspection resources.
- Standards covering 47 products (among them edible oils, biscuits, and bottled water) are mandatory for human safety and public health reasons, under the Compulsory Certification Mark License Scheme.
- These goods, whether imported or domestic, must meet Pakistani standards, which are generally harmonized with international requirements, and have a certification Mark issued by the PSQCA (Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority).

#### **PSQCA ALSO SERVES AS**

- Focal point for national, regional and international organizations & institutions such as ISO, IEC, Codex Alimentarius and WTO.
- National Enquiry Point (NEP) for WTO Agreement on Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT).
- Introduce measures through standardization regarding consumer safety and health.
- Establish procedure to conformity assessment compliant with national & international standards.
  - International Organization for Standardization
  - International Electrotechnical Commission
  - World Trade Organization
  - Codex Alimentarius Commission

#### NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION BODY

- The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, is the national standardization body.
- Domestic manufacturers and exporters must be registered with the PSQCA to ensure compliance.
- In performing its duties and functions, PSQCA is governed by the PSQCA Act, 1996.
- PSQCA is a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and is the apex body to formulate or adopt international standards.

#### NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION BODY

- PSQCA standards are generally voluntary and available to the public.
- Their implementation depends on adoption by concerned parties.
- However, a Pakistan standard becomes binding if it is stipulated in contract or referred to in legislation or made mandatory by specific orders of the Federal Government.
- PSQCA has the mandate to inspect and test products and services, including food items, for their quality, specification and characteristics during use, and for import and export purposes.

#### FEDERAL MINISTRIES & CONCERNED BODIES

- 1. Ministry of National Food Security and Research
- 2. Ministry of Science and Technology
- 3. Ministry of Health
- 4. Ministry of Commerce
- 5. Provincial Governments

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#### L # 40. INSTITUTIONAL MAPPING

#### **INSTITUTIONAL MAPPING**

- In Pakistan, controls have remain organized on the basis of commodity groups (such as plant, livestock) reflecting functions of government departments.
- There are several different federal ministries and bodies concerned.
- Corresponding legislation is largely linked to the duties of the organization.

### Animal Husbandry Commissioner

- Chief Veterinary Officer
- disease surveillance and control
- epidemiology,
- drugs and vaccines
- dairy sector

# 1. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND RESEARCH

- Animal Husbandry Commissioner
- Animal Quarantine Department
- National Veterinary Laboratory
- Department of Plant Protection
- Grain Quality Testing Laboratory
- National Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (NAPHIS)

## **Animal Quarantine Department**

- Animal health conditions for import and export
- Meat inspection for exported meat/casings.
- Controls at border inspection posts.
- Under Animal Quarantine (Import and Export of Animal Products Ordinance, 1979)

## National Veterinary Laboratory

- Disease surveillance
- veterinary drug testing
- vaccination quality
- residue testing

## Department of Plant Protection

- Import/export controls at 26 border
- inspection posts for plant pests/diseases.
- Operates under Plant Quarantine Act 1976.
- Responsible for authorization of pesticides (Pesticide Ordinance 1971)

## **Grain Quality Testing Laboratory**

- Sampling
- Testing for import and export of grains (and other foods);
- pesticide residue
- aflatoxin testing

# National Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (NAPHIS)

- Draft bill for NAPHIS
- to be responsible for development of policy
- initiate legislation
- Ensure efficient enforcement.

#### 2. Ministry of Science and Technology

#### Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority

- is the national standardization body.
- It is responsible for enforcement of standards
- to inspect and test products and services, including food items, for their quality, specification and characteristics during use, and for import and export purposes

### 3. Ministry of Health

#### **National Institute of Health**

(Communication with provinces on food safety)

# 4. Ministry of Commerce The Customs Department

- Its primary function is to ensure that imported food items meet Pakistan's labelling and shelf-life requirements,
- are not on the list of banned items,
- and are assessed the appropriate tariffs.

#### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

- Department of Health
- Department of Plant Protection
- Livestock/Dairy Departments

### **Department of Health**

 Food safety in retail/catering and processing establishments for national market.

### **Department of Plant Protection**

- Plant pest & disease surveillance;
- control on use and distribution of pesticides

# **Livestock/Dairy Departments**

- Meat & dairy inspection at farm/ slaughterhouse/ dairy;
- poultry and eggs inspection at producer level

## **Functions**

- The Department of Customs and Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) are the two main agencies involved in regulating food imports,
- while the Department of Animal Quarantine (DAQ) is responsible for regulating imports of live animals.
- PPQ ensures that shipment of bulk commodities meet phyto-sanitary requirements while DAQ is responsible for enforcing sanitary requirements for live animal shipments.

- The federal government's primary concern regarding imported food is shelf life.
- Federal import regulations require that imported food products have at least 50 percent of original shelf life remaining at the time of importation.
- To ensure shelf life requirements are met, correct labelling is critical.
- Each retail pack must have the production and expiration dates printed on the label.
- In addition to shelf life and labelling, certain products are banned for religious reasons.
- The importation of food products containing pork or pork products is prohibited.
- Meat and dairy products may be imported if certified to be "Halal."
- Commercial import of alcoholic beverages or products containing alcohol is also prohibited.

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# L # 41. FOOD LAWS / REGULATIONS IN PAKISTAN

## Punjab Food Authority

- Punjab Food Authority has been established under the "Punjab Food Authority Act 2011" to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- The basic purpose is to lay out standards for food articles and to regulate their manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale and import.

#### MAIN FUNCTIONS

- Formulate standards, procedures, processes, and guidelines in relation to any aspect of food including food business, food labelling, food additive, and specify appropriate enforcement systems.
- Specify procedures and guidelines for setting up and accreditation of food laboratories;

- Formulate method of sampling, analysis of samples and reporting of results;
- Specify licensing, prohibition orders, recall procedures, improvement notices or prosecution.
- Provide scientific advice and technical support to the Government in matters related to food.
- Collect and analyse relevant scientific and technical data relating to food.
- Establish a system of network of food operators and consumers to facilitate food safety and quality control;

- Organize training programmes in food safety and standards.
- Promote general awareness as to food safety and standards.
- Registration, licensing and other services.
- Certify food for export.

## **Operational Jurisdiction**

- Lahore was the first district to be notified to come under the operational jurisdiction of the Punjab Food Authority.
- expanded to Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi and Multan and thereafter to whole of the Punjab.

#### **ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM & TOOLS**

A variety of enforcement tools have been discussed in the Act, 2011, These include

- improvement notice
- imposition of fine through ticketing,
- seizure of food items
- sealing of premises,
- prosecution in the courts of law,
- emergency prohibition orders, under section
- recall a substandard food item.

## FOOD SURVEILLANCE

- This involves surveillance of all the steps involved in the manufacturing, transportation, storage and marketing of food items.
- International best practices are adopted in order to ensure traceability of raw material as well as the finished products.
- Transportation and storage under adequate environment and controlled conditions, is also part of the food safety regime.

## On Spot Testing Through Rapid Testing Kits

- to check the quality of food items through "on the spot kits".
- kits are used to detect various adulterants in milk, spices, tomato ketchup and also rancidity in cooking oil and ghee.
- Instead of archaic practice of drawing samples across the board, the field teams draw samples of only those food products and send them to the laboratory, which fail to pass the rapid testing tests.

#### RAIDS AT ENTRY POINTS OF LAHORE

- During the milk raids rapid tests are applied to check the possible adulteration of milk with water, urea, formalin, detergents and starch.
- Samples of only those vehicles had been drawn and sent to the laboratory which had failed to pass rapid testing.

### SHOPS/ROAD SIDE VENDORS

- Rectifications ---- by way of issuing improvement notices.
- The field teams issue guidance on food safety and personal hygiene to these vendors.

## SUBSTANDARD OIL & GHEE

- Samples collected from road side vendors out.
- Prosecutions were launched in the court of Special Judicial
   Magistrate concerned in respect of all the substandard samples.
- Through the instrument (testometer) rancidity caused in oil due to repeated frying is checked by the field teams on the spot.
- enforcing ban on the sale/purchase of open oil/ghee.
- The issue with the open oil/ghee is that the same cannot be traced back to the manufacturer. Also, due to exposure to air, its shelf life shrinks.
- Moreover, there exists a strong possibility of usage of substandard or rancid oil/ghee by nefarious elements.
- The sale of loose oil is prohibited under the Punjab Pure Food Rules,
   2011.

#### TOMATO KETCHUP/SPICES/ROTTEN EGGS

 detect adulteration of starch in tomato ketchup, they have been equipped with rapid testing kits. Total number of premises checked on account of tomato ketchup counted as 1032 out of which 140 samples were found adulterated with starch. In addition to launch of prosecutions in the courts of law, notices under section 20 of the Punjab Food Authority Act, 2011 to rectify their respective products. The manufacturers were, for the time being, directed to stop manufacturing the products till the time proper rectifications with regard to ingredients, labelling and the premises-related shortfalls are made out.

# Regulations on Hatcheries

- On the supply side, emergency prohibition orders had been issued to hatcheries to destroy un-hatched eggs and undersized or cracked eggs. Strict surveillance is being done in order to ensure that such eggs don't come into the markets.
- Raid on an industrial unit that used to prepare egg powder from rotten eggs purchased from hatcheries is a worth-quoting example of the dedication of the field teams to meet the expectations of the superiors as well as the general public.