



དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། གསོ་བ་ལྷན་ཁག་ འབྲུག་བཟའ་ཆས་དང་སློན་རིགས་དབང་འཛིན།

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
BHUTAN FOOD AND DRUG AUTHORITY



INSPECTION SERVICES

GUIDELINE FOR USE OF FOOD SAFETY LICENSE MARK ON THE FOOD PRODUCT LABEL

1. BACKGROUND:

Sections 54 of Food Act of Bhutan 2005 and 28 of the Food Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2017 require food business operators to obtain Food Safety License from BFDA to operate Food Business.

Section 32 of the Food Rules and Regulations mandates BFDA to establish the minimum requirement for *Food Business Licensing* based on *Criteria for Good Hygienic and Manufacturing Practices (GHP/GMP Criteria)*.

BFDA implements Food Business Licensing Process for issuance of Safety License to Food Business Operators that fulfills the requirements outlined in BFDA GHP/GMP Criteria. The licensed Food Business Operators are required to display the Food Safety License Mark on their products. The products bearing the Food Safety License (FSL) Marks confirms that FBOs manufacturing the products fulfils BFDA's GHP/GMP Criteria for Licensing of food business. The Food Safety License Mark has been endorsed by the 6th National Food Quality and Safety Commission of Bhutan.

2. PURPOSE:

To provide a clear guidance on the use of food safety license mark by the licensed food businesses for consistent and uniform use of Food Safety License Mark by the licensed food business operators

3. OBJECTIVE:

- Build consumer confidence on locally produced Bhutanese products.
- Provide incentives to the food business operators for fulfillment of BFDA GHP/GMP Criteria.

4. SCOPE:

This Protocol covers the use of Food Safety License (FSL) Mark by all Food Business Operators who have been issued Food Safety License by BFDA, based on the Criteria for Good Hygienic and Manufacturing

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Practices.

5. General

5.1 The license document and Food Safety License mark are distinctive and are:

- a) proprietary in nature, with legal protection as regards composition and control of use,
- b) non-transferable from one unit to another

5.2 Incorrect references to the Food Safety License mark or misleading use of licenses, certificates, marks, or any other mechanism for indicating a unit is licensed, found in documentation or other publicity shall be dealt with by suitable action.

5.3 The manner in which the licensee proposes to place or use the Food Safety License mark, must be approved by Food Quality and Safety Division (FQSD), BFDA.

6. USE OF FSL MARK ON PRODUCT LABEL:

6.1 The Food Safety License (FSL) Mark shall be used only for the products manufactured in the Licensed Food Establishments and the following conditions shall apply;

- a. The Food Safety License Mark as described in Annex A shall be displayed on the label of food package.
- b. The Food Safety License shall be applied in such a manner as it may be easily visible as a distinct mark on the products or the packaging relating to articles which cannot be labeled or covered.
- c. The Food Safety License is directly applied to each individual product except where the physical size of the unit or the type of product does not permit this, in which case the mark may be applied to the smallest package in which the unit is marketed.
- d. FSL Mark shall be displayed on the principal display panel in the following format. In

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case of small packages (where the surface area is less than 10cm²), the FSL mark may be displayed on the bulk package.

- e. The Food Safety License mark is rectangular shape divided into two equal parts by a horizontal white line where BFDA GHP/GMP is inscribed above the divider line and Food Safety License Number is below the divider line.
- f. The FSL mark is not a “Product Certification Mark”, however the FSL mark signifies that the Food Businesses holds a valid Food Safety License.
- g. Conditional food safety clearance and Food Handler’s License is not equivalent to the Food Safety License; therefore, the use of conditional food safety clearance and food handler’s license number on the product label shall not be permitted.

7. Method of Applying Standard Mark

7.1 As far as possible, the Food Safety License Mark shall be applied on the product itself or on the container or package of the product.

7.2 In order to avoid possibilities of fraudulent use, the Food Safety License Mark shall be applied on the package in such a manner that it gets automatically destroyed when the consumer takes out the article from the package, wherever feasible.

7.3 The following are some of the recognized methods of applying Food Safety License Mark on the product label:

- a) Printing on a label,
- b) Printed stickers, adhesive tapes, transfix labels, etc.
- c) Stenciling with paint,
- d) Embossing or punching,

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7.4 The Food Safety License mark should not be used on:

- a) Food Business Operator's stationery,
- b) Food Business Operator's Business cards,
- c) Food Business Operator's Website.

7.5 The Food Safety License mark should not be applied to laboratory test, calibration or inspection reports,

7.6 The master copy of the Food Safety License mark can be obtained from the Food Safety Officer, BFDA Head Office. Electronic reproduction of the master copy of the product certification mark is permitted.

8. Prohibition for improper use of certification mark

8.1 It is a criminal offence to misuse the Food Safety License mark. No person shall use Food Safety License marks in relation to any goods or process without a valid license.

8.2 No person shall use any symbol likely to create confusion about the design of the Food Safety License mark.

8.3 Persons who have obtained licenses shall also not use a Food Safety License mark in relation to any article which does not conform to the prescribed standards or any symbol likely to create confusion.

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9. Penalties

Any person who contravenes any provisions is penalized in accordance with Food Act of Bhutan, 2005 and Food Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2017.

ANNEX A

SPECIMEN OF THE BFDA FOOD SAFETY LICENSE MARK

BFDA - GHP/GMP
Lic No: FSL-XX/YY/ZZZZ

Note:

XX: Code given to Food Business based on their Location

YY: Year of FSL issued

ZZZZ: FSL number (should be 4 letters)

The BFDA Food Safety License Mark:

- shall be of the shape as described in the design
- may be larger or smaller than in the design but its parts shall keep the same proportions as in the design
- The background color is LIGHT GREEN (#9bbb59-RGB) & border demarcation color is GREEN (#71893F-RGB)
- The 'BFDA-GHP/GMP' text shall be in capital, bold, white in color and in Times New Roman font.
- The 'Lic No: ' shall be in italics, bold, white in color and in Times New Roman font.

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