

F. No. 36-5/2025-QCC (E-389463)
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Department of Food & Public Distribution
(Storage and Research Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated: 03.07.2025

To,

The Secretary/Principal Secretary/Commissioner,
Food & Civil Supplies Department,
Government of.....
(All State Governments/UT Administrations).

Subject: Draft SoPs for defining the criteria for technical pre-qualification of FRK manufacturers –reg

Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed here with draft SoPs for defining the criteria for technical pre-qualification of FRK manufacturers and procurement conditions, formulated by the department.

2. In view of the above-mentioned context, it is requested to furnish the comments/suggestions, if any, earlier or latest by 11.07.2025. If any comments/suggestions are not received within the prescribed timeline, thereafter, it will be presumed that the stakeholders have no comments/suggestions in this regard, and the department will finalise the same.

Yours faithfully

(Vishwajeet Haldar)

Joint Commissioner (S&R)

Tel: 23384784

Encl: As above.

Copy to:

1. The PPS to the Secretary (F&PD), Department of Food and PD, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. The PPS to the Secretary (H&FW), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi -110011.
3. The DG, BIS, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
4. The CEO, FSSAI, FDA Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. The CMD, FCI, New Delhi.
6. The MD, CWC, New Delhi.
7. The Director (Technical), NIC with request to host the same on department's website.

Draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Pre-qualification Technical Criteria for Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) Manufacturers

1. Introduction

The Government of India has implemented a mandatory rice fortification program (effective from April 2024) under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes to address malnutrition and anemia. Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK), enriched with Iron, Folic Acid (Vitamin B9), and Vitamin B12, are blended with regular rice at 1% by weight using extrusion technology.

This SOP defines the pre-qualification criteria, sampling and testing procedures, and disposal norms for FRK manufacturers to ensure quality, traceability, and compliance with applicable regulations.

2. Pre-Qualification (Technical) Criteria for FRK Manufacturers

S. No.	Pre-qualification Requirement	Required Documents	Objective
1	The firm having its own manufacturing unit for production of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) will be eligible to apply.	Registration Certificate and other Manufacturing Licenses and/or other certificates issued by the Competent Authority for manufacturing, processing, and storage of FRK	To facilitate procurement directly from manufacturers.
2	The firm should possess a valid FSSAI license under food	Copy of valid FSSAI license.	Mandatory requirement as per FSSAI Act.

	category 99.5 (Nutrients and their preparations.)		
3	The firm must be registered on the <i>ForTrace</i> portal of FSSAI.	Self-Certification by the bidder.	To ensure batch wise traceability of FRK & its ingredients.
4	The firm should have a valid certification issued in compliance of ISO 22000.	Copy of ISO 22000 certificate	To ensure Good Manufacturing Practices/Good Hygienic Practices (GMP/GHP) followed by the FRK manufacturers.
5	The firm should have an in-house NABL-accredited testing laboratory, or a valid agreement with a NABL-accredited & FSSAI notified laboratory for FRK testing.	Valid NABL accreditation certificate for their in-house testing lab or a copy of the agreement with the NABL accredited & FSSAI notified lab for FRK testing.	Testing of offered batch of FRK & its ingredients.
6	The firm should have plant and machinery for manufacturing of FRK as per BIS standards IS 17853:2022.	*Self-declaration/undertaking by the manufacturing firm.	To ensure desired quality of FRK and for better manufacturing practice.

7	The firm must have undergone an annual audit and inspection by an independent third party for observance of listed points at Schedule 4 of FSSAI and the firms having a score of grade "A" or "A+" would only be eligible.	Copy of the third-party audit and inspection report by authorized agency of FSSAI as per Food Safety Auditing Regulation 2018 during last one year.	To ensure that the manufacturing unit is complying norms as mentioned in the FSS licensing & Registration Regulation 2011.
<i>*After successful bidding by the FRK manufacturer, the states should carry out the physical inspection of the premises and the documents submitted before work is allocated.</i>			

Tender conditions must also, inter alia, provide for the followings

- 2.1 The firm should use ingredients (VMP, rice flour & potable water) conforming to FSSAI standards. In case of Iron, while making FRK **Micronized Ferric Pyro Phosphate** confirming to food grade shall be used.
- 2.2 The FRK manufacturing unit must be well ventilated and equipped with facilities for temperature and relative humidity control for storing premix and FRK, as stipulated at clause 4.6 of IS 17782:2021.
- 2.3 FRK must be packed in 20 kg packing size & using packing materials as stipulated at clause 5 of IS 17782: 2021.
- 2.4 FRK bags must comply with FSSAI (Labelling and Display Regulations 2020). It should also have following additional details as mentioned in FSS standards of FRK:

- That the ratio in which Fortified Rice Kernels is to be blended with rice kernels is 1% by weight.
 - It is not to be consumed as an independent product.
 - It is not to be construed as substitute for rice or rice flour.
- 2.5 All produced FRK batches shall be sampled under surveillance sampling by the officers of DFPD/FCI notified as a Food Safety Officer by the FSSAI to monitor the quality of FRK as stipulated under Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 and other applicable regulations.
- Sampling will be done as per “Guidelines on sampling of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) and Fortified Rice (FR)” issued by FSSAI dated 17.11.2023”.
 - The drawn samples will be deposited at central receiving cell of Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL). Later on, such samples will be QR coded and forwarded to randomized labs for testing.
 - The testing of FRK shall be done as stipulated vide orders dated 07.11.2023 and dated 09.11.2023 by FSSAI.
 - The test reports shall be generated with QR code for authentication. The notified officials shall certify “**Fit for Blending**” based on the compliance of the test result.
 - The test result of the laboratory of DFPD/FCI or the one engaged for the purpose by DFPD shall be final and not subject to challenge or contest.
- 2.6 If any FRK batch is found sub-standard or non-compliant the same shall not be subject to any reprocessing, recycling, blending, or any form of reintroduction into the food chain for human consumption.
- 2.7 The manufacturer must undertake disposal of sub-standard or non-compliant FRK through the following pathways, strictly

contingent on suitability for animal consumption. Acceptable end-uses include:

- Cattle /Animal feed
- Poultry feed
- Fish feed

Submission of a **self-declaration**, together with the relevant **invoice**, specifying utilization of the batch as feed in animal sectors.

3. Implementation Timeline

These provisions will be applicable starting from **Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025–2026**.
