

Dated: 31.10.2022

**Subject: -Information under RTI Act, 2005 -reg.**

Sir,

Please refer to your RTI application dated 30.09.2022. In this regards, the information available in this division is as under:

S.No.	Information sought	Reply
1.	<p>As per the draft Notification dated 13 September 2022, of the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Amendment Regulations, 2022 Kindly provide the following information:</p> <p>Kindly share information on the rationale and the evidence to validate the INR scoring system as used in Table 2 to table 6</p>	<p>The current thresholds as proposed by the panel have taken into account the global FOPNL models implemented across various countries and the WHO Population Nutrient Intake Goals.</p> <p>Following is the rationale for table 2 to 6 of draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Amendment Regulations, 2022:</p> <p><b>Baseline Score:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baseline scoring for energy has been extrapolated from <math>0.2t - t - 2t</math> where 't' is the median as per HSR rating of Australia i.e. 400Kcal &amp; 30 Kcal for solid foods and liquid foods categories respectively.</li><li>• The baseline scoring for total sugars was extrapolated from the baseline reference value on par with the median of energy in HSR i.e. 21g &amp; 6g for foods and beverage categories respectively.</li><li>• The minimum baseline values for solid foods have been arrived at by considering 20% (4.2g) of the median and maximum of 400% (84g). The maximum which has been arrived is close to the maximum value reported (97.5 g) in Nutrient Threshold Study. In case of liquid foods, the values are based on the range given in HSR.</li><li>• The baseline scoring for saturated fat and sodium has been extrapolated from <math>\leq 1.0g</math> to <math>&gt;40g</math></li><li>• and <math>\leq 90mg</math> to <math>&gt;2250 mg</math> respectively based on Nutrient Threshold Study.</li><li>• With respect to positive nutrients, panel decided to</li></ul>

		<p>extrapolate Fruits, Vegetables, Nuts, Legumes and Millets (FVNLM) from minimum 10% to &gt;55% based on products standards under FSSR. Further, panel suggested a slight modification in minimum % of FV in case of liquid foods i.e. 5% instead of 10% in alignment with Food Product Standards (5% in case of lime juice). The maximum value in spread (for both solid &amp; liquid foods) refers to more than 55% which is based on the specification of FV content in the Food Product Standards and also the availability of the product in the market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panel recommended the minimum value for fibre as 3g in alignment with the claim criteria as defined under Schedule I of FSS (Advertising and Claims) Regulations. Regarding protein, values were extrapolated from <math>\leq 1.5g</math> to <math>&gt;50g</math> based on the range given in HSR.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Capping of positive points:</u></b></p> <p>The approach used for capping of positive points in calculator has been derived on the principle that weightage of positive nutrients should not outweigh the negatives. Therefore, any product with negative nutrients equal to or less than baseline reference values may be allowed to take maximum points from positive nutrients. And any product with negative nutrients above baseline threshold levels can be allowed to take only middle baseline scores of positive nutrients.</p> <p>Accordingly, as the baseline points for negative nutrients account for 5 points each, capping has been recommended (i) for solid foods at 20 points (5*4) (ii) for liquid foods at 10 points (5*2).</p> <p>Capping as provided below has been applied in calculator:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="604 1563 1390 1980"> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1563 783 1809">Category Solid Foods</td> <td data-bbox="783 1563 1390 1682">if baseline points are <math>\leq 20</math>, can score up to 15 points for protein and 10 points each for FV, NLM &amp; fibre</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1682 783 1809"></td> <td data-bbox="783 1682 1390 1809">if baseline points are <math>&gt; 20</math>, can score up to 7 points (protein), 5 points each for FV, NLM &amp; fibre</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1809 783 1980">Category Liquid foods</td> <td data-bbox="783 1809 1390 1899">if baseline points are <math>\leq 10</math>, can score up to 15 points for protein and up to 10 points for FV</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1899 783 1980"></td> <td data-bbox="783 1899 1390 1980">if baseline points are <math>&gt; 10</math>, can score up to 7 points for protein and up to 5 points for FV</td> </tr> </table> <p><b><u>Formula for Health Star Rating</u></b></p>	Category Solid Foods	if baseline points are $\leq 20$ , can score up to 15 points for protein and 10 points each for FV, NLM & fibre		if baseline points are $> 20$ , can score up to 7 points (protein), 5 points each for FV, NLM & fibre	Category Liquid foods	if baseline points are $\leq 10$ , can score up to 15 points for protein and up to 10 points for FV		if baseline points are $> 10$ , can score up to 7 points for protein and up to 5 points for FV
Category Solid Foods	if baseline points are $\leq 20$ , can score up to 15 points for protein and 10 points each for FV, NLM & fibre									
	if baseline points are $> 20$ , can score up to 7 points (protein), 5 points each for FV, NLM & fibre									
Category Liquid foods	if baseline points are $\leq 10$ , can score up to 15 points for protein and up to 10 points for FV									
	if baseline points are $> 10$ , can score up to 7 points for protein and up to 5 points for FV									

		<p>The formula for health start rating has been adopted from FOPNL models implemented across various countries and the WHO Population Nutrient Intake Goals.</p> <p><b><u>Indian Nutrition Rating</u></b></p> <p>Indian Nutrition Rating has been prepared using global FOPNL models and the same has been suitably modified for food products available in Indian market.</p>
2.	What is the basis of the definition of HFSS as provided in the (1b), and whether it applies to per 100 gram or to the whole of the packaged food.	The HFSS foods under FSS (Labelling and Display of Food) Regulations 2022 has been defined in alignment with the WHO_Population Nutrient Intake Goals (PNIG)
3.	3. What is the criteria used for Category III exempted products, as there is least healthy and healthiest defined according to number of Stars, what the exempted products will be called?	The list of food products exempted under draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2019 were included. Further, minimally processed, single ingredient, food products for special dietary use as such are exempted from FOPNL.
4.	What is the basis of Baseline reference value Food Risk Factors?	The proposed baseline reference values have been derived from global FOPNL models implemented across various countries and suitably adopted in line with RDA, 2022(ICMR).

2. The first Appellate Authority for the undersigned is Sh. Pushp Vanam, Joint Director, Standards, FSSAI, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002. It is informed that first appeal, if any, can be made within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

(Harish Kumar R. K)  
Asst. Director (Tech.) & CPIO