

# Balochistan Food Authority



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## **1. Introduction to SMEDA**

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) was established in October 1998 with an objective to provide fresh impetus to the economy through development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

With a mission "to assist in employment generation and value addition to the national income, through development of the SME sector, by helping increase the number, scale and competitiveness of SMEs", SMEDA has carried out 'sectoral research' to identify policy, access to finance, business development services, strategic initiatives and institutional collaboration and networking initiatives.

## **2. Disclaimer**

This information memorandum is to introduce the subject matter and provide a general idea and information on the said matter. Although, the material included in this document is based on data/information gathered from various reliable sources; however, it is based upon certain assumptions, which may differ from case to case. The information has been provided on as is where is basis without any warranties or assertions as to the correctness or soundness thereof. Although, due care and diligence has been taken to compile this document, the contained information may vary due to any change in any of the concerned factors, and the actual results may differ substantially from the presented information. SMEDA, its employees or agents do not assume any liability for any financial or other loss resulting from this memorandum in consequence of undertaking this activity. The contained information does not preclude any further professional advice. The prospective user of this memorandum is encouraged to carry out additional diligence and gather any information which is necessary for making an informed decision; including taking professional advice from a qualified consultant/technical expert before taking any decision to act upon the information.

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## **Objectives**

- To explain the responsibilities and functions of the Balochistan Food Authority, in accordance with the Balochistan Food Authority Act 2014.
- To identify the license and registration process for food businesses.
- To gain knowledge for their product safety and hygienic issues in accordance with Balochistan food authority act.

### **3. Concept and Importance of Food Authority**

Safety of food and water refers to all the hazards that arise from improper agricultural practices, lack of hygiene at all steps of food chain, defective control in food processing operations and intended and unintended contaminants. Food control plays an important role in ensuring a high quality, safe and nutritious food supply for the public, for their good health and for economic benefits. It is based on the food chain approach – the recognition that the responsibility for the supply of food that is safe, healthy and nutritious is shared along the entire food chain by all involved with the production, processing, trade and consumption of food. This requires a national food control system that ensures coordination and a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities among the three principal stakeholders – government, private sector and consumers.

As such, food control systems protect the health and safety of consumers and help assure the safety and quality of foods being traded both nationally and internationally. Most countries of the world have established a national regulatory authority that oversees national food control systems.

Food safety is an important component of any effective nutrition policy. In Pakistan, provincial governments are responsible for ensuring the safety of domestically produced foods, in accordance with Pakistan's 18<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment. In Pakistan, 4 provincial authority named; Panjab Food Authority, Sindh Food Authority, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Authority and Balochistan Food Authority are functioning to ensure the population's access to safe and nutritious food at affordable prices in Pakistan.

### **4. Balochistan Food Authority**

The Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) is an agency of the provincial Government of Balochistan in Pakistan. It regulates food safety and hygiene in the Province. It was formed under the Balochistan Food Authority Act 2014 and started functioning from March, 2019. Balochistan Food Authority regulates and monitors the food business in order to ensure compliance by former's, manufacturers, distributors, importers and other stake holders in orders to provide safe food.

While working on scientific principles and international best practices, Balochistan Food Authority aims to ensure food safety & quality in the entire food chain collaboration with manufacturers, Food Business Operators, consumers, government departments, autonomous bodies and other stakeholders.

#### **Objectives of Balochistan Food Authority**

- To ensure provision of safe, standard and quality food to the people.
- Accreditation and recognition of Food laboratories.

- Specify licensing and prohibition order.
- Promote general awareness as to food safety and standards.
- Organize training program in food safety and standards.
- Certify food for export

## **5 Responsibilities of Balochistan Food Authority**

Here are some of the core responsibilities of the BFA, in accordance with the Balochistan Food Authority Act 2014:

- To regulate and monitor the food business in order to ensure compliance by farmers, manufacturers, distributors, importers and other stake holders in order to provide safe food.
- To formulate standards, procedures, processes and guidelines in relation to any aspect of food including food business, food labeling, food additive, and specify appropriate enforcement systems.
- To enforce food safety and quality standards.
- To specify procedures and guidelines for setting up and up-gradation of food laboratories and their accreditation.
- To specify licensing, registration, prohibition orders, recall procedures, improvement notices and prosecution in the court of law.
- To provide scientific advice and technical support to the Government in matters relating to food safety.
- To establish food laboratories.
- To arrange awareness and capacity building programs in food safety and standards.
- To promote general awareness regarding food safety and standards.
- To certify food products/items for export.
- To ensure forward and backward traceability of food items.
- To ensure surveillance including collection, integration, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data related to food and nutrient.

All of these responsibilities of the BFA have been carried out since its inception by qualified teams of experts. The core goal is to make sure that the quality and standard of food is maintained all the way from the producer to the consumer without any compromises being made in terms of food safety.

## **6 Functions Performed by Balochistan Food Authority:**

The Balochistan Food Authority perform the following functions to regulate food quality in Balochistan:

### **Food Surveillance**

Food surveillance primarily focuses on monitoring the food items being produced and sold in the local markets. While the process initially began with educating the local



### ***Balochistan Food Authority***

vendors in terms of personal hygiene, the importance of timely deliveries and temperature-controlled environments, and the need for proper labelling, now it is generally carried out via a combination of food sampling, unexpected raids, and even daily inspections, where the teams visit different firms involved in the production, processing, packaging, storage, and marketing of food.

The first step in enforcing the food standards is to issue an improvement notice to a particular vendor with a specified timeline to fix the issues. Then a scheduled visit is conducted as a follow-up to inspect the improvements. If the changes and improvements have not been implemented up to the mark, then fines, legal prosecution, seizure of the products, sealing of the business, and recalling of the product from the market are various other enforcement tools are used to uphold the standards.

### **Setting Food Standards**

One of the responsibilities of the BFA also involves setting the standards by which food quality is measured across the province. The task involves a meticulous study of food items as well as their manufacturing, storage, distribution, and sale, to determine how food is supposed to be treated to maintain the highest quality possible. Moreover, the complete details of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) regarding all food related business are also available on BFA's website.

### **Testing and Screening Food Items**

Laboratories play the role of foundation to ensure public food safety by providing the information regarding the visible and invisible components/ingredients of food. BFA has acquired 02 Mobile Food Testing Laboratories and some essential lab equipment/item. Mobile Food Testing Laboratories of the Balochistan Food Authority has been working since December 2021 in order to test complete regime of food samples in the Province. The main objective of Laboratories is to check adulteration/contamination and composition of all food items; customary or undeclared ingredients in prepared and raw food. Food Laboratories ensure food safety and quality by providing scientific support to meet the requirements of International Standards.

## **7. Food Licence and Registration Process**

### **Food License**

One of the core services offered by the Balochistan Food Authority is issuing licenses to different operators in the food industry. Under the provisions of section 15 of the Balochistan Food Authority Act, 2014 every food business operator is required to obtain a license to run a food business, and each licence must be renewed annually.

### ***Balochistan Food Authority***

Manufacturing, selling, storing, importing, or distributing or imports any food without the prescribed registration or license is a criminal offence, and person shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and which may extend to five hundred thousand rupees (5 lac).

### **Registration of Food Products**

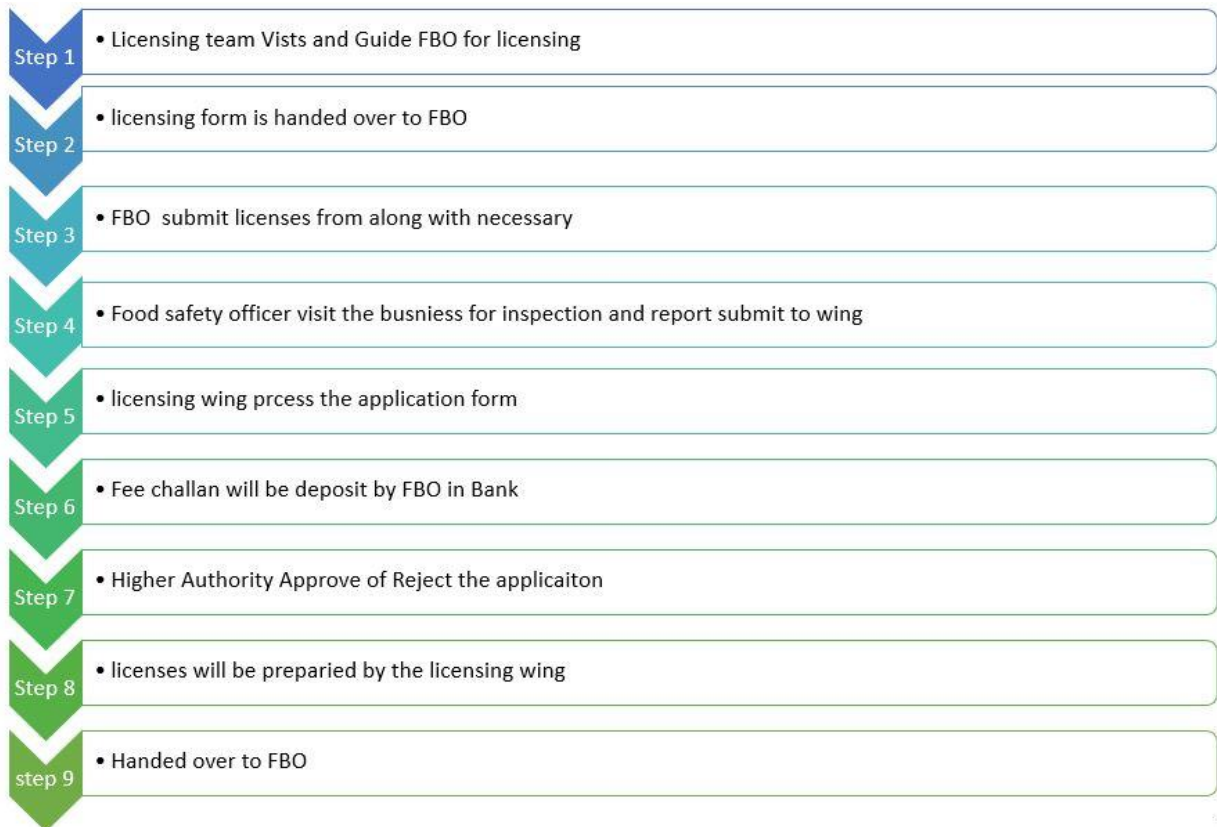
As a food operator, owner/operator will need to get his products registered with the Balochistan Food Authority before he can sell them. Food operators can register their business or product by visiting Balochistan food authority or by applying online on BFA's website.

### **E-License Process:**

License Application would be initiated by following ways;

- Food Business Operators apply by visiting BFA office, and online portal for business registration is also initiated.
- After application of License, Food Business Operator receive SMS of successful application on his registered mobile number.
- After license application, Food safety teams visit the Food Business Operators and check hygiene and food related conditions. After successful verification, Food Safety Officer recommends license.
- A SMS with Challan ID of License fee is delivered to Food Business Operator on his registered mobile number. Food Business Operator had 15 days to submit fee in any branch of respective bank.
- After deposit of license fee a SMS is delivered to FBO for acknowledgement of fee receiving on his registered mobile number.
- After deposit of License fee, License is printed and delivered to Food Business Operator within 5 to 7 working days.

## Steps for Apply Licenses



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