

Scheme of Pre-Arrival Document Scrutiny (PADS)

Food Safety and Standards Authority has been established for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

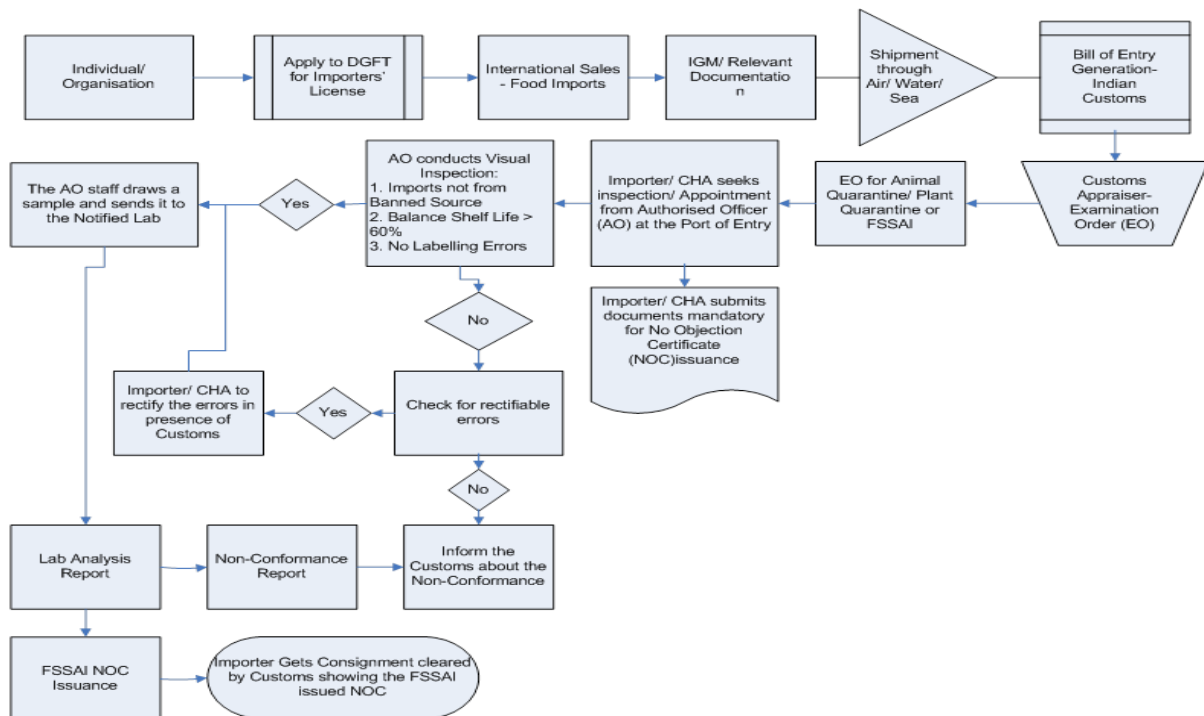
At present, to regulate the import of food consignment, FSSAI is operating at six ports i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin, Chennai and Tuticorin.

As of now, for Ease of Doing Business, Single Window Clearance System has been started at the following ports:

1. Delhi (IGI Airport, Tughlakabad, Patparganj) and
2. Mumbai (JNPT Nhava sheva, Sahar Air Cargo).

The Department of Custom proposes to extend the facility of Single Window Clearance System to all the existing ports in near future.

The clearance of food consignments by FSSAI is the online process in which the importer/CHA can file import clearance application online. The work flow of Food Import Clearance System is as under:



In the existing Food Import Clearance System it has been observed that the average time taken for clearance of imported food consignment is 10.1 days

The port wise timeline study done by FSSAI was undertaken and result of average time taken by the stakeholders, FSSAI and lab are 2.7 days, 2.7 days and 4.7 days respectively.

In the existing system, it has been observed that the importers invest their money in importing non-standardised food products which are not complying with the Food Safety and Standards Act and regulations made therein. It has also been observed that the majority of rejections are due to the labelling deficiency. Since these products are not permitted to be released in the domestic market, they are required to be sent back or destroyed. The arrival of non-standardised food products cause:

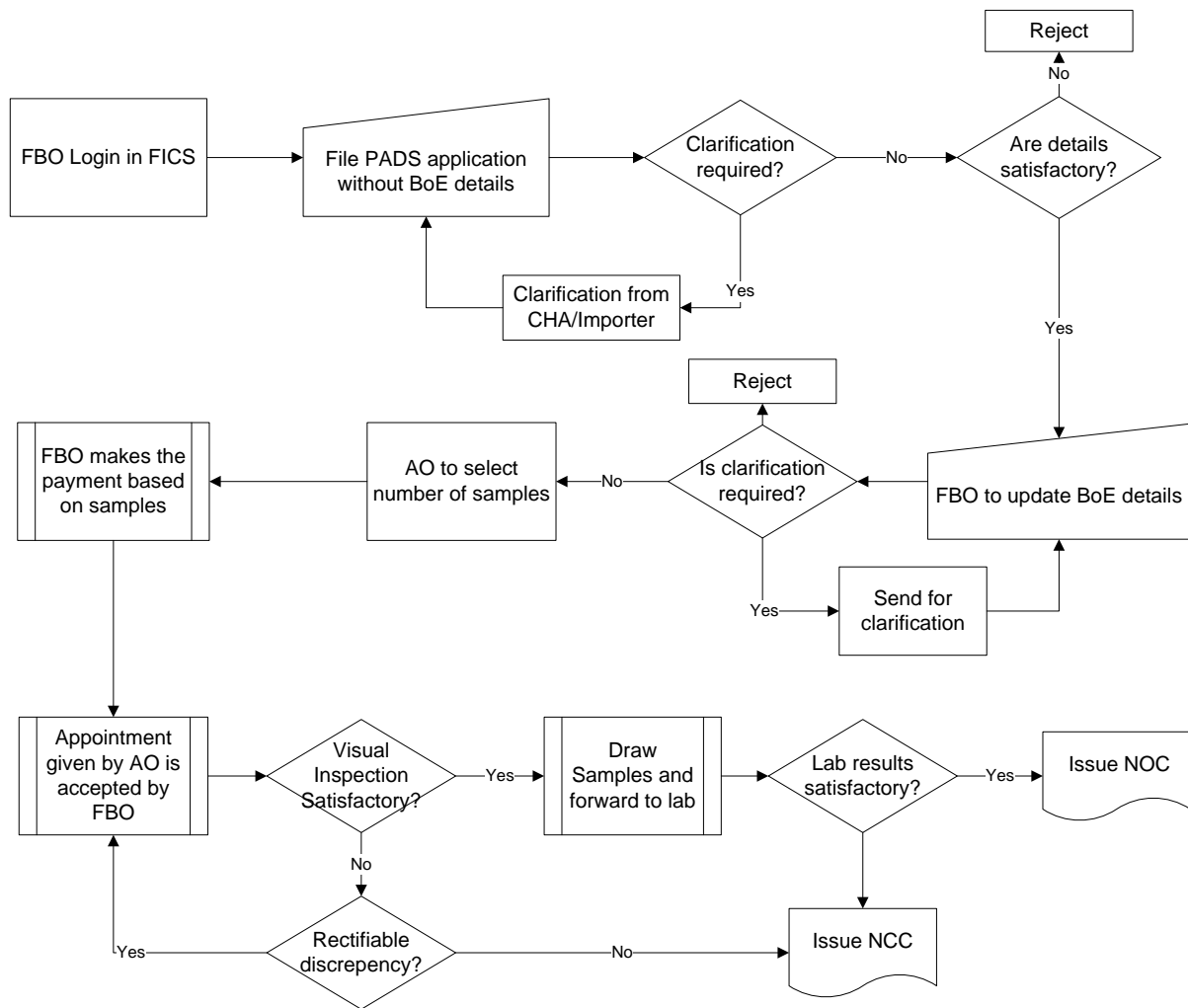
1. monetary loss to the importers
2. loss of foreign exchange from the country,
3. clogging of valuable space of ports and
4. causing unnecessary litigation.

Thus, keeping the spirit of ease of doing business in the country, FSSAI proposes to implement the scheme of Pre Arrival of Document Scrutiny.

PADS project is the first step of food import prioritization system. The idea of implementing PADS is to finally reach a regime of import clearance wherein the non-standardized food as per the FSS Act and regulation made therein are not shipped into the country thereby saving the hassles of both, the importer and the regulatory body.

The FSSAI proposes to implement PADS at the ports wherein the single window system has not yet been implemented. At the ports wherein the department of customs has implemented single window system, PADS shall be implemented by integrating PADS with Single Window mechanism of customs.

The flow of PADS is as follows:



SOP for Food Business Operator (Importer and CHA)

1. File for a new application
2. Select application type (PADS or Non – PADS)
3. PADS application will allow submission of application without Bill(s) of Entry details and Customs Examination Order
4. Provide all details as required in the application
5. Attach documents as required
6. Submit the PADS application
7. In case the Authorised Officer requires any clarification, clarification will be sought in the system and the FBO is required to clarify to the Authorised Officer’s satisfaction
8. FBO will be required to update the remaining details before payment of sample fee
9. Details updated will be verified by the AO.
10. Upon verification and acceptance by the AO, the FBO will be allowed to proceed with payment
11. Further processes remain same as being followed currently

The importer shall submit the following documents along with PADS application –

- i. Label of each food item being imported (non - mandatory for bulk imports)
- ii. Ingredient list of each food item being imported (non - mandatory for bulk imports. Declaration required for single ingredient food item)
- iii. End Usage Declaration for each item
- iv. Invoice/Proforma Invoice
- v. Requisite documents other than the Bill(s) of Entry details and the Customs Examination Order.

In the existing system, the importer files an application for clearance of food consignment after the shipment has reached the port. The importer files an application in the ICEGate, thereby generating Bill(s) of Entry. The importer files an application for NOC in FICS with reference to the BoE Number. Whereas in the PADS, an application by the importer can be submitted without BoE details in FICS.