

**PAKISTAN STANDARDS & QUALITY CONTROL AUTHORITY**  
**STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

**MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF NATIONAL STANDARDS**  
**STEERING COMMITTEE (NSSC) FOR FOOD STANDARDS**  
**HELD ON FRIDAY THE 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023 AT 2.00 P.M. IN THE**  
**COMMITTEE ROOM OF PSQCA COMPLEX AT PSQCA, KARACHI**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**CHAIRMAN**

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| 1. | Mr. Zainul Abedin,<br>Director General, | Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority,<br><b><u>Karachi.</u></b> |
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**MEMBERS**

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| 2.  | Mr. Zuzzer Ali Shamsuddin,<br>Chairman NSC (Agri. & Food<br>Products), | Adviser to D.G PSQCA/ Chairman, NSSC  |
| 3.  | Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad Memon,<br>Joint Technological Advisor,                | Member from Ministry of Science &<br>Technology, (MoST), <b><u>Islamabad.</u></b>               |
| 4.  | Mr. Ashraf Palari,<br>Director Conformity Assessment,                  | Member from Pakistan Standards & Quality<br>Control Authority, (SDC), <b><u>Karachi.</u></b>    |
| 5.  | Mr. Syed Muhammed Rafiq,<br>Director (Licensing & Registration),       | Sindh Food Authority,<br><b><u>Karachi.</u></b>   |
| 6.  | Mr. Abdul Sattar Shah,<br>Director (Technical),                        | Member from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food<br>Safety and Halal Food Authority, <b><u>Peshawar.</u></b> |
| 7.  | Mr. Nageebullah,<br>Deputy Director (Technical),                       | Member from Balochistan Food Authority,<br><b><u>Quetta.</u></b>                                |
| 8.  | Mr. Saud Bangash,<br>Resident Director,                                | Member from The Pakistan Business Council,<br><b><u>Islamabad.</u></b>                          |
| 9.  | Mr. Mian Mitha,<br>Manager R & A,                                      | Member from M/s. Nestle Pakistan Ltd.,<br>308-Upper Mall, <b><u>Lahore.</u></b>                 |
| 10. | Mr. Irfan Hafeez Malik,<br>Advisor Corporate Affairs,                  | Member from PAFI/ Friesland Campina,<br>Pakistan Engro Foods, <b><u>Karachi.</u></b>            |
| 11. | Mr. Azhar Hafeez,  | Member from Board of Investment (BoI),<br><b><u>Islamabad.</u></b>                              |

12. Mr. Kashif Shafi, Member from OICCI Karachi.

**Other Delegates**

13. Dr. Seema Ashraf, Delegate from Sindh Food Authority,  
Director (Technical), **Karachi.**
14. Dr. Muhammad Nasir, Delegate from Pakistan Business Council  
Manager Scientific & Regulatory Friesland Campina Pakistan, M/s. Engro Foods,  
Affairs, **Lahore.**
15. Dr. Fayyaz Ashraf, Delegate from Pakistan Business Council  
Director Quality Assurance/ Quality M/s. National Foods,  
Control (Research & Development), **Karachi.**
16. Dr. Ghulam Mustafa Sipra Delegate from Pakistan Business Council  
Manager Scientific & Regulatory M/s. Coca- Cola Export Corporation,  
Affairs, **Lahore.**
17. Ms. Maryum Zubairi, Delegate from Pakistan Business Council,  
Dy. Manager Regulatory Affairs, M/s. Shan Foods, **Karachi.**
18. Mr. Owais Nadeem, Delegate from Pakistan Business Council,  
Regulatory Affairs Manager, M/s. Unilever Pakistan, **Karachi.**
19. Mr. Atif Warsi, Delegate from Pakistan Business Council,  
Sr. Manager Scientific & M/s. National Foods,  
Regulatory Affairs, **Karachi.**
20. Mr. Rahat Hussain, Delegate from M/s. Nestle Pakistan Ltd.,  
**Karachi.**

**SECRETARIATE**

21. Engr. Ali Bux Soomro, Member and Secretary to NSSC  
Director (Standardization), Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority,
22. Mr. Ayaz Ahmed, Assist to DG PSQCA,  
AD/Incharge (Agri. & Food) Standards Development Centre, PSQCA,
23. Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, Assist to DG PSQCA,  
Assistant Director (Agri. & Food) Standards Development Centre, PSQCA,
24. Mr. Khawaja Ghulam Mohiuddin, Standards Development Centre,  
Assistant Director (Chemical), **PSQCA.**

- 0.1 The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Standards Steering Committee (NSSC) for Food Standards was convened on the 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 at 2.00 p.m. in the Committee Room of the PSQCA, Karachi. (List of Participants is attached at Annexure-A).
- 0.2 The meeting commenced with the recitation from the verses of the Holy Quran.
- 0.3 Mr. Zainul Abedin, Director General, Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA)/ Chairman NSSC for Food Standards, welcomed the members and delegates. He appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Provincial Food Authorities and PSQCA with respect to harmonization of food standards for “Ease of Doing Businesses” in the light of Council of Common Interests (CCI), Ministry of Interprovincial Coordination decision.

## **1. ITEM NO.1 OF THE AGENDA PROGRESS REVIEW**

The official business of the meeting started with the presentation by Mr. Ali Bux Soomro from PSQCA. Afterwards, there was long discussion and deliberation on the agenda items especially on the mandate/jurisdiction of product registration and implementation. The provincial food authorities, PSQCA and the representatives from PBC, OICCI and PAFI also put forward their positions/understanding of the CCI decision. The following decisions/recommendations were made in the meeting.

### **1. Renotification of Pakistan Standards by Provincial Food Authorities:**

According to the procedure, food standards development is regular process and there are standing technical committees on various food categories to develop standards and National Standards Committee of Food and Agriculture to endorse those standards before notification by PSQCA. Since the standard setting and/or modification is regular ongoing procedure and CCI has decided that the Pakistan Standards notified by PSQCA shall prevail and all the stakeholders including provincial food authorities are part of technical committees as well as the National Standards Committee, there is no need to further re-notify standards at each federating unit level. The representatives of provincial food authorities were requested by NSSC to adopt the standards as notified by PSQCA under the true spirit of the CCI decision. If required any revision in any Standard, the relevant technical committee of PSQCA will review the Standard upon request.

Representative of PFA pointed out that PFA has raised reservations on few standards notified by PSQCA. The chair of NSC Food & Agriculture assured that the reservations will be placed in the agenda of the relevant technical committees for deliberation as per the process of standards making or modification.

## **2. Regulatory Framework;**

It was agreed that there is clarity in CCI decision in terms of relevant mandate of standards setting, licensing of food businesses, enforcement/implementation. However, the registration of food products and allied mandate needs deliberation.

There was in-depth discussion amongst the members of PSQCA, provincial food authorities and Pakistan Business Council. A member representative of PBC, put forward his recommendation/understanding of the CCI decision based on the official discussions leading up to the CCI decision and the workflow for processing product registration applications efficiently, hence enabling ease of doing business.

The house agreed to the proposal which is given hereunder:

- i. The certification mark logo against relevant Pakistan Standard includes (a) registration of the food product, (b) label approval, (c) conformity assessment and (d) award of certification mark logo. The label approval and product registration will be carried out by relevant provincial authority, under whose jurisdiction the product is being manufactured against relevant Pakistan standard only. After the label is approved and registration is done by the relevant provincial food authority, the case will be submitted to PSQCA for award of the certification mark logo. Once the certification mark logo is allotted by PSQCA, it will be the responsibility of the relevant provincial food authority to keep the product conformity assurance against the relevant Pakistan Standard Specification notified by PSQCA and conformity assessment procedure. Province shall adopt the harmonized Conformity Assessment Rules based on ISO: 17065. The food product will have to be registered only once in province of manufacturing and all the other federating units will accept that registration.
- ii. Considering the Pakistan's regional and global obligations against MoAs/ MoUs / treaties, and WTO-TBT requirements, the award and maintenance of certification mark logo must be developed at the national level (i.e. PSQCA). PSQCA and provincial food authorities shall implement this agreed framework model in their respective domains. Provinces shall ensure that product conforms the relevant Pakistan Standards Specification and carry C.M. Logo before marketing.
- iii. The following subcommittee is being constituted to develop/agree a comprehensive "Implementation Framework Model", so that PSQCA and provincial food authorities can interface seamlessly to ensure a robust quality infrastructure in the country.

The committee will comprise of 02 representatives of PSQCA (one with legal background), 01 representative from each of the provincial food authorities, 01 representative from Pakistan Business Council, one representative from Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST), one representative from Ministry of Commerce, one representative from Ministry of Industries, one representative from FPCCI, one representative from OICCI and one representative from Board of Investment. The committee will discuss and recommend an implementation model and will submit its recommendation in NSSC within 06 weeks from its notification. Once approved by NSSC, the model will be shared with PSQCA and Provinces for adoption and/or implementation and take necessary measures for any change in their rules if required.

### **3. QR Code – Track & Trace by PFA**

Representatives from PBC, OICCI, PAFI and BOI expressed the industry's inability to implement the solution keeping in view the global practices, applicability, cost factor etc. of the QR Coding system currently PFA is going to implement. They requested PFA representative to pause the implementation, to duly consult stakeholders on the feasibility of the solution. The members of the committee suggested PFA to call a roundtable meeting so that the stakeholders can give their input to PFA on the best solution position considering the local business climate. The PFA representative agreed to call a roundtable meeting with all stakeholders. The NSSC clarified that any such matter should be discussed in relevant technical committee(s) and there shall be stakeholder consultation/alignment before implementing new regulations or changes to regulations. The representative of BOI reinforced the stance, in light of the need to create a conducive investment climate in the country.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from DG, PSQCA.

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