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**FSSAI: Review licenses of packaged drinking bottlers**

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The food regulator has directed the food commissioners of all the states and union territories to review the licenses which have been given to the manufacturers as more and more complaints about the packaged water being sold without BIS certification have been brought to light.

BIS- Bureau of Indian standards certification is mandatory on the label of all packaged water being sold in India.

Inoshi Sharma, executive director, FSSAI, states that when people seek an FSSAI license, they often claim they have also applied for the BIS certificate. The FSSAI license is granted on the assurance that the applicant also filed for a BIS certificate. But many food businesses do not end up taking the BIS number.

Ms Sharma, in her letter, stated that all the officers to review the licenses that have been provided to the manufacturing of packaged drinking water businesses in their jurisdiction and cross-check whether the licenses have a valid BIS certificate. If certificates are not available, notices may be issued to such food business operators within a specific time period. If the food operators fail to do so, such licenses will be suspended as per the FSS (licensing and registration of food business Regulation, 2011) FSSAI has also asked the state governments to conduct periodic checks to ensure the quality of packaged drinking water and this report must be submitted to FSSAI by 31 May.

FSSAI has also received several complaints from consumers stating the misuse of the term ORS (Oral Rehydration Salts). Various juice brands and other sweet-based drinks use the term ORS in their labelling as ORSL, ORSL Rehydrate, Electro plus ORS etc.

According to FSSAI, ORS is a drug under the Drugs and cosmetics rules. It is used for treating diarrhoea and has a specific composition as prescribed by the Drugs Controller General of India.



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