

## Press Note

There were media reports about Package Drinking water (PDW) available in market without FSSAI License and brands namely Aqua fina, Kinley, Bisleri were highlighted in the report. In this connection following is informed:

(a) Package drinking water is covered under definition of food under Section 3(j) of Food Safety Act, 2006 as "Food" and as contained in Section 31 of the FSS, Act all Food Business Operators requires License/Registration prior to carrying/commencing of Food business including packaged drinking water.

(b) FSSAI has made the BIS certification mandatory under sub regulation 2.3.14(17) of FSS (prohibition and restriction on sales) Regulation, 2011 i.e. *"No person shall manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale packaged drinking water except under the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification mark."*

(c) BIS certification for packaged drinking water (other than packaged Mineral water) was made mandatory w.e.f. 29<sup>th</sup> March 2001 under the PFA i.e. prior to FSS, Act become operational.

2. Taking a serious note on the issue CEO, FSSAI held a meeting with Officers of BIS and representatives from three main packaged drinking water manufacturers namely M/s Pepsico, Coca-Cola & Bisleri. The FBOs were directed to respond on the media reports. All the FBOs refuted the report and claimed that all their manufacturing/processing units of Packaged Drinking Water were licensed by FSSAI and BIS certified. Accordingly, FBOs were directed to submit all the details of their various manufacturing/processing units including third party manufacturer, processors.

3. The details forwarded by FBOs were verified by FSSAI and it was found that the FBOs have valid FSSAI/BIS License/Certification. It can be safely concluded that said FBOs comply with relevant provisions FSS Act, Rules and Regulations made thereunder. Similar exercise for other food businesses in packaged drinking water is being taken up.

4. Public at large may kindly note that FSSAI and BIS is taking appropriate actions to ensure the quality and safety of package drinking water in the country.

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