



F. No. 3(5) 2015/Entf- Legal/ FSSAI  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India  
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110002

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Dated, the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2019

ORDER

**Subject: Inspections, monitoring and sampling of fruits and vegetables to rule out the use of Calcium Carbide in ripening of fruits & to check the level pesticides in fruits & vegetables – regarding.**

Artificial ripening of fruits by using prohibited substances like Calcium Carbide or Acetylene Gas (Masala in common parlance) poses serious threat to the health of consumers. The traces of Arsenic and Phosphorous present in Calcium Carbide can cause vomiting, diarrhea with or without blood, burning sensation of the chest and abdomen, thirst, weakness etc. Regulation 2.3.5 of FSS (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 provides that "no person shall sell or offer or expose for sale or have in his premises for the purpose of sale under any description, fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas". Despite prohibition on sale of artificially ripened fruits by using calcium carbide, the prevalence of such ripened fruits in market is a serious cause of concern which needs to be tackled effectively.

2. In the light of the above, Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/ UTs are hereby directed to initiate effective surveillance and enforcement activities to rule out any possibility of ripening the fruits with the aid of harmful & banned substances viz. calcium carbide or acetylene gas. They are also advised to do similar exercise for vegetables to check the level of pesticides. A guidance note no. 4/2018 on artificial ripening of fruits which is available on the FSSAI's website may also please be referred to.

3. Further, a focused and sustained awareness campaign at Mandi level may be conducted for awareness of the FBOs. The awareness campaign in this regard may also be conducted through electronic and print media to educate FBOs as well as consumers.

4. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.: as above.



(Sanjeev Kumar)

Deputy Director (RCD)

To

1. Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs.
2. All Authorised Officers
3. All Central Licensing Authorities, FSSAI

Copy for information to:

o/o Chairperson, CEO, all Divisional Heads

Copy to: IT Division- to upload the order on FSSAI's website.