



FSSAI directive permits sticking fortification logo on veg oil labels

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Shraddha Joshi, Mumbai

Through its recently-issued directive, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to allow food business operators (FBOs) to paste stickers with the fortification logo or stamp it on the product labels for edible vegetable oil. It permitted the FBOs to use these methods until June 2018. According to an official with the country's apex food regulator, this has been done to allow the FBOs to clear the stock of packaging material which has already been printed.

As per the directive, FSSAI received various representations asking for the use of the fortification logos with either stickers or stamps on their existing labels. "The reference on the same was drawn from the directive issued in November 2017 with regards to the scaling up of edible oil fortification," the notification stated, adding that after due consideration, FSSAI has decided to permit the use of stickers on the existing labels for edible vegetable oil fortified with Vitamin A or D till June 30, 2018.

Umesh Verma, spokesperson, Puri Oil Mills Limited, promoter of P Mark mustard oil, said, "Permitting the use of stickers with the fortification logo on the product label would help manufacturers and marketers of edible oil, especially the smaller players. In general, manufacturers and marketers stock the inventories for a few months. The smaller organisations might have raised concerns about exhausting their stocks in hand. In that case, it is justified for the time being."

The step was taken in order to fulfill other provisions of the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2017.