

FSSAI orders probe into health supplement, nutraceutical claims by FBOs

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FSSAI has ordered a probe into the reports of false claims made by the FBOs (food business operators) covered under the food safety regulations for health supplements, nutraceuticals, foods for special dietary use, foods for special medical purposes, functional foods and novel foods.

State food safety commissioners were directed to launch a surveillance drive in their jurisdiction and verify the claims made thereunder. A compliance report was also sought from the state food safety departments in this regard by July 15, 2019.

An order signed by Dr Shobhit Jain, executive director, compliance division, FSSAI, said that it had come to the notice of FSSAI that products covered under the Food Safety and Standards Regulations for health supplements, nutraceuticals, foods for special dietary use, foods for special medical purposes, functional foods and novel foods, which was notified on December 23, 2016.

“In view of the above, the state food safety commissioners are requested to carry out surveillance in the area of their respective jurisdictions to study the various types of claims being made with respect to the products covered under the mentioned regulations,” he added in his order, stated that an action taken report on market surveillance of these products as per the prescribed format shall be communicated to his office by July 15, 2019.

In January as well, FSSAI issued a similar order instructing authorised officers to conduct a drive to curb the sale of misbranded nutraceutical products which were sold with wrong labelling in the market.

It was reported that several FBOs who were selling nutraceutical and health supplement were not following the labelling regulation, and misbranding was being done, wherein labels was marked with a green dot, while the products was containing ingredients of animal origin.