

FSSAI gazettes stds for frozen beans, cauliflower, peas; compliance by '21

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The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the standards for frozen vegetables including beans, cauliflower, peas and spinach, in the gazette. The regulations called the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 2020, have come into force with the notification but Food Business Operators have been asked to comply with all the provisions of these regulations by July 1, 2021, says the notification.

Under the category of "Fruit & Vegetable Products" under these regulations, the standards for frozen beans, cauliflower, peas and spinach were included.

For frozen beans, the regulations say that the product shall be of reasonably uniform colour and free from foreign flavour or odour, other than those imparted by any added ingredients. It shall be clean, free from sand, grit and other foreign material and shall test negative for Peroxidase. It shall not contain any added colour.

Frozen beans may be of Whole; Cut; Short cut; Sliced; and any other style of presentation is permitted provided that it is sufficiently distinctive from other forms of presentation laid down in this standard and is adequately described on the label to avoid confusing or misleading the consumer.

For frozen cauliflower, the regulations say that the product shall be of reasonably uniform white to dark cream colour which may be slightly dull and have a tinge of green, yellow or pink over the flower surface. The stem or branch portions may be light green or have a tinge of blue.

Further, the product may be presented in (i) Whole: the whole, intact head, which is trimmed at the base and which may have attached small, tender, modified leaves, (ii) Split: the whole head, cut vertically into two or more sections, (iii) Florets: segments of the head, which may have a portion of the secondary stem attached. Small, tender modified leaves may be present or attached to the units, and (iv) Others: which is adequately described on the label to avoid confusing or misleading the consumers.

Frozen peas, according to the regulation, shall be of reasonably uniform green colour according to type, whole, clean, and free from foreign matter & damage by insects or

diseases. It shall be free from any foreign taste or smell and shall have a normal flavour, taking into consideration any ingredients added. It shall not contain any added colour.

And the frozen spinach, shall be of a reasonably uniform green colour, characteristic of the variety. It shall be free from any foreign flavours and odours other than those imparted by any added ingredients. It shall also be free from fibrous material and for the styles of whole leaf and cut leaf not materially disintegrated due to mechanical damage.

Also, the product in pureed style shall be free from any dark particles or flower buds which affect the overall appearance of the product while the product may be presented in (i) Whole spinach: the intact spinach plant with root removed, (ii) Leaf spinach: substantially whole leaves most of which are separated from the root crown, (iii) Cut leaf spinach: parts of leaves of spinach cut into pieces, (iv) Chopped spinach: parts of leaves of spinach cut into small pieces but not comminuted to a pulp or puree, (v) Pureed spinach: spinach finely divided or finely chopped or having passed through a sieve.