

FSSAI directs food safety depts to conduct enforcement for adulterated oil

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The Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has asked the state food safety departments to conduct enforcement activities regarding adulteration of edible oil. The apex food regulator of the country, in a survey, found that 33 per cent of the samples of edible oil, particularly mustard oil, were adulterated with cheaper oils, and therefore, the food regulator has decided to strengthen the enforcement mechanism against the adulteration of edible oil.

FSSAI, in this regard, issued an order saying that food safety officers (FSOs) in states had been advised to carry out the enforcement drive and collect samples for testing purpose.

The order said, "The food safety commissioner of each state has been advised to carry out enforcement activities to collect samples, particularly of mustard oil, of various brands available in the market and get them tested including for the presence of oryzanol."

It added that in case of adulteration, appropriate action may be taken against the defaulters under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

An official with the FSSAI informed that instances of adulteration of various vegetable oils have been reported with cheaper vegetable oil. In particular, mustard oil is being adulterated with rice bran oil. Recently, a surveillance exercise conducted by the FSSAI for edible oils and fats in Delhi-NCR, and 33 per cent of the samples of mustard oil have been found to have THE presence of oryzanol, indicating adulteration of mustard oil with rice bran oil.

Alarmed by the survey, FSSAI decided to direct the state food safety department to conduct surveillance on edible oil across the country on all brands available in the market.