

FSSAI clarifies pan masala and mouth freshener categorisation in FLRS

Thursday, 09 May, 2019, 08 : 00 AM [IST]

Khyati Das, Mumbai

FSSAI has made an announcement about the clarification of food product categorisation of pan masala, mouth freshener and mukhwas in the Food Licencing Registration System (FLRS).

The country's apex food regulator has received several complaints regarding the categorisation of the said products, and after detailed deliberations, its Scientific Panel has recommended that the food categorisation codes may be used for the issuance of licences to such products.

Earlier, these products were categorised as snacks, which are defined under Section 15.1 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

Serial number	Food products	Categories
1	Pan masala and areca nut-based mouth fresheners	15.2 (Processed nuts, including coated nuts and nut mixtures)
2	Spice-based mouth fresheners	12.2.1 (Herbs, spices, including masalas)

Terming the changes as a routine affair, Krishna Methekar, food safety officer, FDA (Food and Drug Administration) Maharashtra, said, "With the advancement of science, changes take place in the regulations, and depending on that, it is the decision of the scientific panel to categorise them."

The FBOs who have already obtained licences for the said products under different categories were advised to modify their respective licences within a period of three months. This provision has already been incorporated in the FLRS.

Also, all the state food safety commissioners, as well as the Union Territories and Central Licencing Authorities, were also directed by FSSAI to suitably guide all food business operators (FBOs) applying for pan masala, mouth freshener and mukhwas, to obtain

licences as per the categories mentioned in the direction.

Speaking on the notification by FSSAI, Sarvjeet Puri, general manager, SMC Products, said, "We just need to change the chapter number from 15.1 to 15.2 as said by FSSAI."

He added that it will not be difficult to do so within the given period of time.