

FSSAI to extend deadline for implementing packaged water stds to July 1

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The Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to extend the dates for implementation of the standards for packaged drinking water regarding limits of magnesium and calcium. Now, the FBOs (food business operators) need to comply with the standards by July 1, 2020.

The country's apex food regulator has, in this regard, issued a notice, stated that it had been in receipt of various representations from the stakeholders, seeking extension for implementation of the standards for packaged drinking water.

It is pertinent to mention here that in October 2019, FSSAI had issued a gazette notification for Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additive - 4th Amendment) Regulations, 2019, specifying the limits of calcium and magnesium in the packaged drinking water.

The amended regulation was relating to general parameters concerning substances undesirable in excessive amounts. And according to the regulations, the permissible limit for calcium was set at 20-75mg per litre, while for magnesium, it was set at 10-30mg per litre.

Shobhit Jain, executive director , Compliance Strategy, stated, "After consideration of the representation received from the stakeholders, it has been decided that the timeline for the implementation of Clause 2(b) of the notification related to limit of calcium and magnesium in packaged drinking water (other than mineral water), is extended for a further period of six months till July 1, 2020."