

11 packaged water units functioning sans licences

By Vicky Pathare, Pune Mirror | Updated: Jul 27, 2018, 02:30 IST

FDA slaps notices on firms in Pimpri-Chinchwadarea

Pimpri-Chinchwad is stuck with the packaging bottle menace, where various firms are unethically distributing water over the last two-three months. Such errant manufacturing units have come under radar of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) during the investigations, which has found out that as many as 11 units were functioning without mandatory certification. The FDA has asked for a halt on production and sale.

Within the PCMC jurisdiction, the FDA has 15 manufacturing units, all possessing licences from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which are deemed essential to conduct food businesses. The FDA (food), Pune region, has issued notice to Raj Food and Agro industries in Moshi, Pure Dew Beverages in Kalewadi, Kate Beverages in Pimple Saudagar, Rao Food and Agro Industries in Moshi, KR Enterprises in Chikali, Saste Aqua in Moshi, Kalbhor Industries in Chikali and Sky Aqua in Wakad. Other manufacturing units like Cool Aqua beverages in Charoli, Raghav Food and Beverages in Charoli, Kapse Enterprises in Pimpri and Geetanjali Foods in Bhosari have also been functioning without FSSAI licences.

“When we went through the record, we found businesses without licences. They have been operational since last two or three months,” said SB Naragude, assistant commissioner, FDA (Food).

Calling it a gross violation of rules, the administration has issued notices to the units under Section 31(l) of the Food and Safety Standards Act. “They have been asked to stop the production, distribution and sale of the package water immediately. They can function only after getting the valid licences,” Naragude added.

Shivaji Desai, joint commissioner of FDA (food), Pune region, also emphasised on the mandatory nature of the licences. “It was a suo motu action taken by us and no complaints were received. They were found operating in various hotels, restaurants, shops and even grocery stores, with water bottles of 1, 2, 5 and 20 litres.”

However, manager of Pure Dew Beverages —a firm which has been slapped with notice — Amit Shete has said that while they have received the notice, it is not for the FSSAI licence.

“We have FSSAI approvals which are valid till November 2018. The packaged water of our company doesn’t have a batch number, which is why they gave us a notice. We have told the FDA officials that since it is a trial batch, they do not have the numbers. And still, they have issued notices to us,” Shete said.

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—**Shivaji Desai, joint commissioner of FDA (food)**