

PRESS NOTE

Standards for Honey revised to build public interest in quality of honey in market.

FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) ninth Amendment Regulations, 2018.

The amendment regulations prescribe revised standards of Honey. In addition, it also prescribes comprehensive standards for all pulses and new standards for whole and decorticated Pearl Millet grains, Degermed Maize flour and Maize Grit, Couscous, Tempe, Textured soy Protein, Sago flour, Bee Wax & Royal Jelly.

Honey has been a target of adulteration through artificial colours and sugars for a long time now. It is believed that Adulteration with corn syrup, cane sugars, rice syrup, beet sugar, sulphite-ammonia caramel is common in honey. It is due to the general drop in production and consequent increase in market prices that have encouraged falsification practices.

Through this amendment notification the existing standards of honey has been revised to include several new quality parameters which address the issues concerning quality and purity of the product and also to curb rampant adulteration in honey. The parameters which can play major role in detecting and curbing adulteration are diastase activity, $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio between fructose and glucose, Specific marker for Rice Syrup (SMR), Trace marker for Rice Syrup (TMR) etc.

As per these regulations, honey can be labelled according to floral or plant source, if the product comes essentially from the indicated source and possesses its organoleptic, physicochemical and microscopic characteristics corresponding with that origin.

Earlier FSSAI has also notified the tolerance limit of 10 antibiotics in honey to prevent the malpractices of using these antibiotics at producer level.

With these standards of honey, the falsification/ adulteration practices in honey could be curbed. Further, FSSAI would also initiate monitoring and surveillance activities based on these revised standards for honey which are available in the market.

The above regulation came into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. However, Food Business Operator shall have to comply with all the provisions of these regulations by 1st January, 2019.