

F. No. RCD-15001/6/2021-Regulatory-FSSAI-Part 2 (E-1788)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)
(Regulatory Compliance Division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110 002

Dated, the 03 April, 2023

To,

1. The Commissioner of Food Safety of All States/UTs,
2. All Regional Directors,
3. All Central Licensing Authorities.

Subject: Request for action against unauthorized use of artificial fruit ripening agents-Reg.

Madam/Sir,

As per the provisions in sub-regulation 2.3.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011, the use of Calcium carbide also known as 'Masala' is prohibited as a ripening agent for artificial ripening of the fruit.

2. Further, in order to ensure that artificially ripened fruits are safe and healthy to consume, FSSAI permits the use of ethylene gas at a concentration of up to 100 ppm (100µl/L) depending upon the crop, variety, and maturity for the artificial ripening of fruits.

The treatment of unripe fruits with ethylene gas triggers the natural ripening until the fruit itself starts producing ethylene in large quantities. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) detailing all aspects of the artificial ripening of fruits by ethylene gas is developed by the Working Group constituted at FSSAI and is available on the following link: https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Guidance_Note_Ver2_Artificial_Ripening_Fruits_03_01_2019_Revised_10_02_2020.pdf

3. However, it has been brought to the notice of FSSAI that the food business operators (FBOs) are not complying with the said standard operating procedures (SoP) diligently, which specifically restricts the direct contact of the ethylene powder/liquid with the fruits. It has been reported that few FBOs are not following the said restriction which is in violation of the said SoP as well as an unsafe practice to ripen the fruits artificially.

4. Therefore, in view of the above, it is requested to undertake a special drive for awareness building among the FBOs about the usage of ethylene gas as a ripening agent in an approved manner only. Further, strict enforcement action shall be taken against any FBO found indulging in unapproved practices where ethylene powder/liquid is coming in direct contact with fruits, apart from checking any illegal use of calcium carbide for artificial ripening of fruits under your respective jurisdictions.

This issues with the approval of CEO, FSSAI.

Yours faithfully,


(Inoshi Sharma)

Executive Director (Regulatory Compliance)

Copy for information to: Sr. PS to CEO, FSSAI