



FSSAI extends pre-printed packaging material deadline by three months

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FSSAI has permitted food business operators (FBOs) to use pre-printed packaging materials for their products for another three months. In separate directives, the country's apex food regulator has allowed the use of pre-printed packaging materials for food products under Section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and seasonings until June 30, 2018.

According to the directive, FSSAI has permitted the FBOs to use the existing labels under proprietary food for health supplements, nutraceuticals, food for special dietary use and medical purposes, specialty food containing plant and botanicals, probiotics, prebiotics and novel foods for three months time (i.e. until June 30, 2018). However, FBOs have been instructed to comply with the standards prescribed for food products under Section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011.

The decision by the regulator was taken after due consideration of representations received from stakeholders.

Directive on seasonings

Meanwhile, FSSAI has also decided to allow FBOs to use the old printing materials for the packaging of seasonings till June 2018.

In August 2017, FSSAI, through a gazette notification, had prescribed new standards for seasonings and other products.

The new regulations require a specific food product category - seasoning - to be printed on the label in place of the existing food product category [seasoning and condiments (proprietary food)].

However, FBOs still continue to have in stock labels with seasoning and condiments (proprietary food) printed on the packaging material.

Thus, FSSAI, in its order, stated that after due consideration, it has allowed the use of the existing label under proprietary food up to June 30, 2018. And it is mandatory for all the FBOs to comply the standards prescribed for seasoning notified in the gazette.