



Maharashtra FDA notice to Maganlal to stop making, selling chikki

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E-paper

The state food and drug administration has sent a notice to Lonavla-based Maganlal Food Products — that manufactures the famous Maganlal's Chikki — directing it to stop production and sale of its products from Tuesday. The company will be able to restart production only after it completes the required documentation and rectifies other lacunae found during an inspection of the manufacturing unit.

Authorities from the state food and drug administration (FDA) inspected the unit at Nangargaon MIDC near Lonavla on Tuesday. Suresh Deshmukh, joint commissioner, FDA, Pune told TOI, “We found that they have not appointed a well-qualified person to supervise the manufacturing process to ensure that the products are safe and provide wholesome food. There was no laboratory to test the products. So we served notices on Maganlal Food Products that manufactures chikki, jelly and fudge.”

Deshmukh pointed out that the manufacturer must have its own laboratory to test its products or it must get its products tested through a laboratory approved by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Another FDA official added, “They manufactured products in an unclean and dirty environment. They did not know whether the water they were using was potable. So, we served them a notice on Tuesday asking them to stop production and sale of their products until they fulfil the conditions of the Food Safety and Standards Act.”

Owner of Maganlal Food Products Ashok Agarwal said, “We have been told to stop production and distribution until we fulfil certain conditions. The inspection team found some lacunae in documentation, which we will fulfil in three to four days and resume production.

We have a licence for packaging but they have told us to get a licence for manufacturing and packaging. On Tuesday evening itself, I made an online application for the licence.” Agarwal added, “We obtained the requisite licence for transportation on Tuesday. We were following the old FDA norms. But now new FSSIA norms have come into force and we will follow those now onward.”

The three- to four-day freeze on production and sale of goods is not expected to have a significant impact on revenue, the owner claimed. “Even so, we feel we will face a loss of around Rs50 lakh, per day,” said Agarwal