

## Eateries delivering food at your doorstep are unlicensed and unhygienic, reveals Maharashtra FDA

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Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued notices to leading aggregators such as Zomato, FoodPanda, UberEats and Swiggy over their association with unlicensed and unregistered restaurants.



All of the leading aggregators have responded to the FDA's notice (Representative Image) |

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**Mumbai:** Most of us who order food to be delivered at our doorstep rely on aggregators such as Zomato, Swiggy, Foodpanda and UberEats to ensure that the food sent to us for consumption is prepared in a hygienic kitchen and with a quality control parameter in place. However, it seems like the hefty amount we pay for food deliveries is not enough for aggregators to ensure that we are served hygienic food items.

Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a notice to leading brands such as Zomato, Swiggy, UberEats and FoodPanda pulling them up for tying up with unlicensed and unregistered eateries. An officer with the FDA said that as the result of a thorough inspection,

they have uncovered that close to 213 eateries working with at least one of these top brands do not even have a license.



This would mean that the eateries in question are not bound to follow any hygiene regulations put in place by the FDA to ensure the quality of preparation. Food served at these small and mid-level restaurants goes through no quality check and is delivered at your doorstep thereafter, said the officer.

Responding to the allegations, Zomato claims that it is in the process of delisting restaurants and has already severed ties with as many as 350 eateries. Swiggy also issued a statement saying that they are inspecting all eateries associated with their brand and will be cutting ties with any found failing hygiene and food safety parameters. Responses issued by UberEats and FoodPanda also carry the same tone and context.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra FDA has said that it is slated to conduct inspections of eateries across the state in the days to come and will be shutting down any restaurants found in violation of food safety standards. However, the next time you plan on ordering food to be delivered at your doorstep, it would be reasonable to judge the quality of that food with a pinch of salt.