

FSSAI takes steps to prevent online liquor sale

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Thiruvananthapuram: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to take steps to stop selling liquor via online. The authority has ordered not to provide food safety license for online liquor sale anywhere in the country. The precautionary step was taken after several products having alcohol content was enlisted in the application to be included in food category.

The states have the power to decide on liquor sales. It is the excise department that grants license for liquor sale according the rules in the concerned places. However, food safety license is essential for manufacturing, storage and distribution of food items. License or registration of the food safety wing is required even for the online food sale.

According to FSSAI's directive, when application for online liquor sale is filed in online food sale category, they need to submit permit and No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the excise department. As no state in India has allowed online liquor sale, the excise permit cannot be attached with the application. The FSSAI warned the food safety commissioners pointing out the verdict of Karnataka high court regarding online liquor sale.

It is also directed that while receiving application for food safety license for online food sale, an affidavit should be filed stating liquor or food with alcoholic content will not be sold and advertisement or pictures of liquor will not be displayed. This is a precaution for preventing sale of liquor or alcoholic content in the name of food safety license.