## MEDIANAMA

## Pune FDA issues notice to 149 restaurants; Rajkot authorities ask Swiggy and Zomato to show FSSA license for 'transporting' food: reports

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Local authorities in Rajkot and Pune are coming down on food aggregators or on restaurants associated with them. The Pune FDA department has issued warning notices to 149 food establishments that do not have FDA licenses for supplying to food aggregators, per the Hindustan Times. Meanwhile, the Rajkot Municipal Corporation has issued notice to Swiggy and Zomato asking them to furnish their food license under the Food Safety and Standards Act, per the Times of India. According to the RMC, it's mandatory under the FSSAI to obtain license for the transportation of food items.

We have reached out to Zomato, UberEats, Foodpanda, and Swiggy and will update this when we hear from them.

## Notices and warnings issued for safety, license requirements

In Pune, FDA warns food delivery services to stop working with restaurants without licenses: The FDA has also warned food aggregators like Zomato, Uber Eats, Swiggy and Foodpanda not to collect food from restaurants which are violating FDA norms. The FDA issued the notices to the 149 restaurants after it received complaints from customers about the hygiene and quality of food supplied by food aggregators. 149 out of the 552 restaurants in Pune were found running without licenses, as required in the Food Safety and Standards Act.

FDA officers said food delivery services have violated quality and hygiene norms in the past two months. Because of this, the body has made it compulsory for the food delivery services to maintain the health record of each food delivery boy to avoid the spread of infectious diseases. Its unclear whether the restaurants or the food delivery services are responsible for the health check-ups. 36 restaurants in the city have successfully completed health check-ups of the delivery boys and been certified by the FDA, according to Hindustan Times.

**In Rajkot, Swiggy and Zomato had launched operations only six months ago**. The RMC's health officer Pankaj Rathod said both Swiggy and Zomato have failed to produce the license for transportation of food items, noting that the the FSSA requires that food packaging and transportation of food items be done under hygienic conditions.

**Platforms delist FSSA non-compliant restaurants**: In December last year, Zomato, Swiggy, Foodpanda, and UberEats delisted a cumulative 10,500 restaurants from their platforms

after an FSSAI order directed them to do so for restaurants which are not registered under the Food Standards and Safety Act. The FSSAI had observed that 30-40% of food businesses listed on online food delivery services do not possess a valid license.