

Business Standard

FSSAI bans staple pins in tea bags from June 30

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[Food](#) regulator FSSAI on Wednesday issued a notification seeking a ban on the use of pins in [tea bags](#) by the [food](#) business operators (FBOs) by June 30.

[Food](#) Safety and Standards Authority of [India](#) (FSSAI) has asked the FBOs to discontinue manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of stapled [tea bags](#) by June 30.

Last year, it had decided to ban the stapler pins in [tea bags](#) from January 2019 as it poses potential hazard to consumers since any loose staple pin consumed inadvertently with tea may cause a serious [health](#) hazard.

Earlier, FBOs had raised the issue of cost involved in changing over staple-less machines and presence of a few manufacturers of such machines globally.

The FSSAI ruled out the possibility of "blanket extension".

However, it said extension may be given on a case-to-case basis depending on firm commitment from the FBOs with proper proof to change over within a specified time.

The food authority has also directed the [tea bag](#) manufacturing units to submit their plan to switch to new system by procuring the new machines or modifying the existing machines.