

## Vendors asked not to paste stickers on fruits

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The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has directed the vendors to avoid pasting stickers on fruits and vegetables. The direction was issued as gluing labels on edible fruits is likely to contaminate it.

The consumers are not aware of the substance used for pasting the sticker on fruits. Even if the fruit or vegetable is washed thoroughly, the residues of the glue remains on them. The harmful chemicals in the glue may also infiltrate into the flesh from its peel.

Pasting stickers on fruits and vegetables is a common practice in foreign countries as well. But they print details like the price, details of producers and suppliers and whether the crop is organic or not on the stickers.

However, the labels used in our place is printed with unnecessary and dishonest details like 'premium', 'tested OK', 'best quality' etc. No agency might have granted permission to paste such stickers on the edible products.

The vendors charge higher price for labelled products than the unlabelled ones. The authority has demanded to ensure the quality of the ink and glue used in the stickers, if they are necessary. It is an offence to sell food items that contains substances harmful to health.