Goa: Hygiene audit must for food, sweet outlets, says FDA

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PANAJI: With the festival season around the corner, the Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has directed all the food business operators in Goa to register for a hygiene audit within 30 days. The FDA has also asked all outlets that sell sweets to display the expiry date next to each tray of sweets or risk paying fines.

All restaurants, bakeries, meat shops, sweet shops and any other store selling food items have to undertake the hygiene rating audits and any food outlets that have a manufacturing category licence need to submit their annual returns online before August 31 failing which a penalty of Rs 100 per day will be levied.

"Food Business Operators (FBO'S) engaged in sale of sweets (Indian Sweets) shall compulsorily display the best before date on each sweet tray displayed at their counter. Non compliance will attract penalty," said FDA director Jyoti Sardesai.

Last year, the FSSAI had made it mandatory to write the 'best before date' on sweets plates in shops for the open sale of sweets, but did not impose any restriction on the date for making sweets. Packaged sweets and food items already carry an expiry date along with details of manufacturer and food safety licences.

All FBOs shall compulsorily display their FSSAI licence and registration and the applicable Food Safety Display Board (FSDB) in the business premises at a prominent place and also print it on the bills that are issued to customers, the FDA has said.

Ganesh Chaturthi will be celebrated on September 10, followed by Dussehra in October and Diwali in November. The FDA's new directives are as per the requirement that came into force last year.

Food outlets also need to have at least one person who possess Food Safety Training and Certification (FOSTAC). All applications for new licences as well as renewals have to done online through the FSSAI portal.