



## **FSSAI seeks clarity on import of golden syrup to stop misuse in honey**

Thursday, 04 June, 2020, 08 : 00 AM [IST]

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Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued an order seeking clarification from the importers of golden syrup/invert sugar syrup/rice syrup after it received complaints about these syrups being used for production of honey.

The order says that the importers were directed to submit necessary documents at scrutiny stage before clearance including the details of end-users of the imported food item to maintain the regulatory compliance of the rules and regulations made by the FSSAI.

The order says, "To ensure quality of honey and to contain the misuse of imported golden syrup/invert sugar syrup/rice syrup in production of honey, all the importers/food business operators who are importing these food items in India are directed to also submit necessary documents at scrutiny stage, before clearance, to concerned Authorised Officer regarding details of the manufacturer(s) with end use to whom the aforesaid imported food items will be supplied."

Golden syrup is a yellowish syrup made from evaporated sugarcane juice, used as a sweetener and in baking. Invert sugar syrup and rice syrup have similar composition and used in various food preparations like bakery. However, there were instances of misuse of these syrups in honey production.

According to FSSAI, golden syrup/invert sugar syrup/rice syrup are sometimes being used in production of honey as they are cheap in cost, have similar physical properties and available easily.

The order, meanwhile, directed the Authorised Officers to carry out clearance of these products only after ensuring the necessary documents and fulfilment of other requirements of FSSAI. Also, the officers were asked to submit the details of the cleared imported consignments of these products with the concerned Central Designated Officer to ensure compliance of regulatory requirements under FSS Act.