

File No: RCD-15001/9/2023-Regulatory-FSSAI-Part(1)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)
Regulatory Compliance Division
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110002

Dated, the 21st November, 2023

To,

1. The Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UT's
2. All Regional Directors of FSSAI

Subject: Monitoring the sale of fresh fruit & vegetables, for presence of pesticides residues, non-permitted wax coating, non-permitted artificial ripener and artificial colours, in the market- reg.

Madam/Sir,

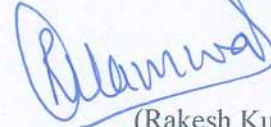
This is in continuation to the directions/letters issued regarding '**Request for action against unauthorised use of artificial fruit ripening agents**' RCD-15001/6/2021-Regulatory-FSSAI-Part 2 (E-1788), dated 03.04.2023 and '**Monitoring the sale of fresh Fruits and Vegetables in the Markets – Reg.**' vide no. RCD-02005/1/2023-Regulatory-FSSAI, dated 24.07.2023. Copies of the same are enclosed for your ready reference.

In the above context, to curb the menace of excess use of pesticides, non-permitted wax coating, non-permitted artificial ripener and artificial colours, it is again requested to keep strict vigil in your State/UT on FBO's who are engaged in manufacturing / re-packing fresh / surface treated / minimally processed Fruits & Vegetables. Therefore, surveillance / enforcement activities may be undertaken from time to time in a planned manner to ensure that the Fruit & Vegetables being sold under your jurisdictions comply with the provisions of **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** or of any Rules or Regulations made thereunder.

In addition to the above, awareness building measures through Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities under Eat Right India Initiatives may be conducted from time to time to educate the FBOs and consumers about the above issues.

Issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,



(Rakesh Kumar)

Director (Regulatory Compliance)

Copy to:

1. Sr. PS to the CEO, FSSAI for information.
2. Joint Secretary, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare (**For information**).
3. CTO, FSSAI for uploading on the website.

F. No. RCD-15001/6/2021-Regulatory-FSSAI-Part 2 (E-1788)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)
(Regulatory Compliance Division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110 002

Dated, the 03 April, 2023

To,

1. The Commissioner of Food Safety of All States/UTs,
2. All Regional Directors,
3. All Central Licensing Authorities.

Subject: Request for action against unauthorized use of artificial fruit ripening agents-Reg.

Madam/Sir,

As per the provisions in sub-regulation 2.3.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011, the use of Calcium carbide also known as 'Masala' is prohibited as a ripening agent for artificial ripening of the fruit.

2. Further, in order to ensure that artificially ripened fruits are safe and healthy to consume, FSSAI permits the use of ethylene gas at a concentration of up to 100 ppm (100µl/L) depending upon the crop, variety, and maturity for the artificial ripening of fruits.

The treatment of unripe fruits with ethylene gas triggers the natural ripening until the fruit itself starts producing ethylene in large quantities. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) detailing all aspects of the artificial ripening of fruits by ethylene gas is developed by the Working Group constituted at FSSAI and is available on the following link: https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Guidance_Note_Ver2_Artificial_Ripening_Fruits_03_01_2019_Revised_10_02_2020.pdf

3. However, it has been brought to the notice of FSSAI that the food business operators (FBOs) are not complying with the said standard operating procedures (SoP) diligently, which specifically restricts the direct contact of the ethylene powder/liquid with the fruits. It has been reported that few FBOs are not following the said restriction which is in violation of the said SoP as well as an unsafe practice to ripen the fruits artificially.

4. Therefore, in view of the above, it is requested to undertake a special drive for awareness building among the FBOs about the usage of ethylene gas as a ripening agent in an approved manner only. Further, strict enforcement action shall be taken against any FBO found indulging in unapproved practices where ethylene powder/liquid is coming in direct contact with fruits, apart from checking any illegal use of calcium carbide for artificial ripening of fruits under your respective jurisdictions.

This issues with the approval of CEO, FSSAI.

Yours faithfully,


(Inoshi Sharma)

Executive Director (Regulatory Compliance)

Copy for information to: Sr. PS to CEO, FSSAI

File No RCD-02005/1/2023-Regulatory-FSSAI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)
Regulatory Compliance Division
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110002

To,

Dated: 24th July, 2023

The Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs.

Subject: Monitoring the sale of fresh Fruits and Vegetables in the Markets-Reg.

Ma'am/Sir,

This is with reference to the various media report regarding vegetables and fruits being sold contain pesticides and harmful chemicals in high doses, in major cities across India. Further NHRC has also taken *suo-moto* cognizance on the issues relating to excess use of pesticides by farmers and has directed for taking measures to minimize pesticides risk and promotion of alternative systems of cultivation.

In order to curb the menace of excess use of pesticides during pre-marketing treatment of fruits and vegetables with the pesticides, it is requested to keep strict vigil in your respective State/UT on the such Food Business Operators (FBO) who are involved in the manufacturing/re-packing fresh/surface-treated/minimally processed Fruits & Vegetables.

Further measures like surveillance /enforcement activities may also be undertaken from time to time to ensure that the fresh fruits & vegetables being sold under your respective jurisdictions comply with the provisions of **Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulation, 2011**, as amended from time to time.

In addition to above, awareness building measures through Information, Education, Communication (IEC) activities under Eat Right India Initiative may be conducted in the fruits and vegetable markets/ Mandi to educate the FBOs and consumers about the issues.

Yours sincerely,


(Inoshi Sharma)

Executive Director (CS)

Copy for Information to:-

1. Advisor (QA), FSSAI.
2. Sr. PS to the CEO, FSSAI.
3. CTO, FSSAI-for uploading on FSSAI website.