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FDA seals meat shop in Sasane Ground area

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Kolhapur: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has sealed a meat shop in the Sasane Ground area for flouting hygiene and sanitation rules, an official said on Tuesday. FDA officials said that they received several complaints from locals about the meat shop operators not following hygiene and sanitation rules. Residents complained that the shop operators failed to keep the site of the shop clean and provide hygienic meat to customers.

Acting on the complaint, FDA officials deployed a team of inspectors to scrutinise the functioning of meat shops in various localities. As part of the inspection drive, they checked meat shops in the Shahu Market area and the Sasane Ground area on day one.

Mohan Kembalkar, assistant commissioner, FDA said, “We have found that the animals brought to one of the meat shops in the Sasane Ground area were not certified through the veterinary officer of the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation (KMC). The said certification is carried out to ensure that weak animals — goats and sheep — are not slaughtered and consumers get good quality meat. Also, sanitation rules were not followed at the said shop. We have sealed the meat shop and it can re-open only after the operator complies with the hygiene and sanitation requirements.”

The samples of meat sold to consumers were scrutinised by inspectors and the same has been sent to the laboratory for further testing.

Officials claimed that the meat sold to consumers belonged to weak animals and was not safe for consumption. In such cases, the veterinary officer of the municipal corporation is entitled to stop the slaughter of such animals.

FDA officials said that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Act makes it mandatory for vendors to get an approval from the veterinary department on the ante-mortem of the animal. The meat is rejected if there is any microbial contamination in the animal's internal organs.