



Ban on Chinese milk & chocolate imports extended further by six months

Wednesday, 24 April, 2019]

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The ban on the import of milk, confectionery and chocolates import from China has been extended for another six months. The decision was taken by FSSAI, the country's apex food regulator, at a meeting held in New Delhi recently with officials of Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Trade.

The ban shall be effective from April 24, 2019.

In an order, FSSAI reasoned that since the capacities of the food testing labs in India at the ports of entry were not upgraded, the ban has been extended.

The order said, "The ban on import of milk and milk products, including chocolate and chocolate products and candies, confectionery, food preparations with milk and milk solids as ingredients from, China may be extended until the capacity of all the laboratories at ports of entry have been suitably upgraded for testing melamine."

Previously, the ban was extended on December 24, 2018.

It is pertinent to mention here that DGFT had imposed a ban on import of milk and milk products from China for three months on September 24, 2008. The ban was extended for six months subsequently after that. This originally started over the complaint that Chinese milk and chocolate products contained melamine.

According to the food safety officials, the ban has been extended over the years, as quality of milk that comes from China was found contaminated with melamine content, and despite the repeated extension of the ban, no representation from Chinese counterparts was received.