

FSSAI extends date for complying with packaged drinking water regulations

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The apex food regulator of the country has extended the timeline for compliance of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Fourth Amendment Regulations related to standards of packaged drinking water other than mineral water.

The reason was said to be the unpreparedness of food businesses due to prevailing Covid-19 pandemic. These regulations were to be implemented from July 1, 2021, but now shall be implemented from January 1, 2022. Previously also, the timeline for compliance of this regulation was July 1, 2020, and subsequently extended till January 1, 2021.

The FSSAI order in this regard says, "Stakeholders requested for further extension of time for compliance since food business operators are yet not prepared to comply with the said provision due to the lockdown implemented to check the spread of Covid-19 pandemic." And "after due consideration of the representation, it has been decided to further extend the deadline for compliance related to the limits of calcium and magnesium for the standards of packaged drinking water other than mineral water, upto 1st January, 2022," the order reads.

The decision was taken by the FSSAI after a consultative meeting with the stakeholders. FSSAI says that the decision was taken as the industry has sought extension of the timeline for the compliance with the provisions of these regulations. According to the FSSAI, the food businesses have told the food regulator that due to Covid-19 pandemic they were yet to prepare for the compliance and therefore need time.