

FSSAI classifies mineral water and packaged drinking water under High-Risk Food Category

Background

- Till 17 October 2024, it was mandatory to manufacture, sell or exhibit the sale of mineral water and packaged drinking water under the Bureau of Indian Standards ('BIS') certification.
- However, this requirement was dispensed off by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India ('FSSAI') through its notification dated 17 October 2024.
- Consequently, FSSAI issued an order on 29 November 2024 to include such water in the 'High Risk Food Category.'

Key implications of the reclassification

- Manufacturers of packaged drinking water and mineral water will now face more rigorous regulatory oversight.
- FSSAI will conduct mandatory annual inspections of manufacturing facilities to ensure compliance with food safety and quality standards.
- Holders of Central Licenses for high-risk food categories, including packaged drinking water and mineral water, will be required to undergo annual third-party food safety audits.

This reclassification highlights FSSAI's commitment to public health, aiming to maintain stringent quality control measures and protect consumers from potential health risks.

Weblink

<https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2024/12/674d4719ac3c7FSSAI%20Order%20dated%2029th%20Nov%202024%20on%20addition%20of%20Food%20Products%20under%20High%20Risk%20Categories.pdf>

Therefore

The reclassification of packaged drinking water and mineral water as a high-risk food category by the FSSAI marks a significant step in ensuring the safety and quality of essential consumer products. By tightening regulatory oversight and enforcing mandatory annual inspections and third-party food safety audits, the FSSAI aims to eliminate potential health risks associated with these widely consumed beverages.