

New norms prescribe parameters for pesticide residues, beverages, instant tea

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The FSSAI has notified Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Third Amendment Regulations, 2021, prescribing parameters for pesticide residues for mineral water.

According to the notified regulations, pesticide residues considered individually should not be more than 0.0001 mg/l and total pesticide residue should not be more than 0.0005 mg/l.

Further, the amendment regulations prescribe source of the water used for packaged drinking water other than mineral water.

In the sub-regulation 2.10.8 relating to Packaged Drinking Water (other than Mineral Water) now the clause (2) says, "Water shall be derived from surface water or civic water supply or underground water or sea water or any other consistent source of water which may be subjected to herein under specified treatments, namely, decantation, distillation, filtration, combination of filtration, aerations, filtration with membrane filter, depth filter, cartridge filter, activated carbon filtration, demineralisation, remineralisation, reverse osmosis and packed after disinfecting the water to a level that shall not lead to any adverse effect in the drinking water by means of chemical agents or physical methods to reduce the number of microorganisms to a level scientifically accepted for food safety or its suitability."

Further, in sub-regulations 2.10.6 relating to Beverages Non-Alcoholic, the FSSAI has fixed the ingredients such beverages can contain. The new condition says, "Non-carbonated Water Based Beverages (Non-Alcoholic) means beverages containing water conforming to the standards prescribed for packaged drinking water or mineral water under these regulations without added carbon dioxide and shall contain ingredients as specified in sub-clause (i), singly or in combination."

Previously, there was a condition which stated that such beverages 'may contain' ingredients as specified.

Also, the amendment regulations include the standards for instant tea in solid form.

The definition says that instant tea in solid form is a dried water- dispersible solid obtained by aqueous extraction by an acceptable process of the leaves, buds, and stems, and of materials derived there from, of those varieties of the species *Camellia sinensis* (Linnaeus) O. Kuntze exclusively which are known to be suitable for making tea for consumption as a beverage and the residue, if any, of permitted process aids and permitted food additives.

Also, the regulation states that the instant tea in solid form shall produce a liquor of characteristic flavour, colour and taste. It shall have no taint and shall be free from extraneous matter, added colours and non-permitted flavours. And, the flavoured instant tea manufacturers shall register themselves with the Tea Board before marketing flavoured instant tea and the registration number shall be mentioned on the label.

Lastly, the regulations prescribe the standards for solid instant tea including moisture content max at 6%, total ash per cent by mass max 20% hot soluble and 35% cold soluble while the acid insoluble ash, percent by mass should be max at 1.0%.

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