NEWS | BEVERAGES

FSSAI directs warning with large font on alcohol beverages

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By **Sonali Wankhade** | February 7, 2019



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WordPress post #8593

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In 2018, India’s food regulator, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), had directed alcohol companies to carry a statutory warning saying “Consumption of Alcohol is injurious to health” and “Be safe - Don’t drink and drive.” It also said the font size should not be less than three millimetres.

FSSAI has revised the statutory warning to be placed on alcohol bottles. As per this notification, a transition period up to April 1, 2019 was given to the Food Business Operators (FBOs) to comply with these regulations.

Meanwhile, feedback were received from various stakeholders in respect of the challenges in complying with requirement of the above mentioned font size (i.e. 3 mm) on smaller packs of alcoholic beverages.

The issue was discussed in the 13th meeting of Scientific Panel on Water and Beverages, after detailed deliberations Scientific Panel recommended that: For Alcoholic Beverages having pack size up to 200ml, the font size of statutory warning shall be not less than 1.5 mm while bottles above 200 ml in size, will have to carry the warning message in a font size of 3mm. All companies have to follow the guidelines and transition to the same by April 1, 2019.

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