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## **Food safety regulator asks states to inspect tea-processing units**

The Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has asked state level enforcement authorities to carry out inspection at various tea processing units to check adulteration of iron filling in the beverage.

The regulator has recently conducted a large scale laboratory analysis of tea powder for determining the limit on iron filling. After finding wide variations in the test results, the FSSAI said that until method of assessment for iron fillings is finalized, the state food safety officials can carry out inspection at the factories. Until the method of assessment is finalized, the enforcement authorities may carry out inspection in tea factories rather than on retail outlets etc to ensure that food business operators (FBOs) involved in the processing/manufacturing of tea operate with the requisite equipment for removal of iron fillings, "FSSAI said in the notification.

Earlier, the FSSAI had capped the maximum limit for iron particles in tea powder at 150mg/kg. In many cases, it has been found that the tea powder is contaminated with iron fillings.

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