

Fruit Products Order, 1955

Fruit and Vegetable Processing Sector is regulated by the Fruit Products Order, 1955 (FPO), which is administered by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India.

No person shall carry on the business of a manufacturer except under and in accordance with the terms of an effective license granted to him under this Order in Form B and shall not use the License number on labels of non-fruit products.

A license shall be in force for such period as may be specified therein, usually for three/five or ten years. For the renewal of a license application shall be submitted at least one month before the expiry of the period of the license. The licensing Officer may by order refuse to grant a license to any applicant giving a brief statement of doing so. The manufacturer may appeal to the Central Govt against such refusal within a period of thirty days of the receipt of the order and the decision of the Central Government shall be final.

Every manufacturer shall manufacture fruit products in conformity with the sanitary requirements and the appropriate standard of the quality and composition specified in the Second Schedule of this Order.

With regard to packing, marking and labelling of containers of fruit products, the following requirements have to be fulfilled: -

- Every container in which any fruit product is packed shall bear the label as approved by the Licensing Officer
- The bottle shall be so sealed that it cannot be opened without destroying the license number of the special identification mark of the manufacturer to be displayed on the top or neck of the bottle or in case of tin, barrel or other container the license number shall be exhibited prominently on the side label of such tin or be embossed thereon.

- The label should not contain any statement, claim, design or device, which is false or misleading in any particular concerning the fruit products etc.
- Every beverage should contain at least 25% of fruit juice in its composition otherwise it will be treated as synthetic and it shall immediately precede such name the name of the product and in case of artificial flavours the words 'Artificially Flavoured' shall also be added.

The licensing officer or any officer may with a view to securing a compliance with this Order can inspect the premises or any raw or final material or any account books, documents or other relevant evidence connected with manufacture of fruit products in respect of which he has reason to believe that a contravention of the Order has taken place, he can also seize or detain such things, on giving a proper receipt.

According to clause 7 and 10 the place, where fruit products are manufactured, shall comply with the sanitary requirements, as laid down in the Factories Act 1934, of a fruit products manufacturing unit. The premises shall be clean, adequately lighted and ventilated and shall be clean in all respect. The windows, doors and other openings shall be fly proof.

The Order lays down specifications and quality control requirements on production and marketing of the following food products:

- Fruit Juice, Pulp Concentrate, Squashes, Cordials, Crush, Fruit Syrups, Nectar, Aerated water containing Fruit Juice or Pulp and Ready to serve Beverages
- Fruit Nectar, Canned Mango Pulp (Natural & Sweetened), and Sweetened Aerated Waters with no Fruit Juice or Fruit Pulp or containing less than 10% of Fruit Juice or Pulp
- Sweetened Aerated Water with 10% or more of Fruit Juice or Fruit Pulp
- Barley Waters (Lemon, orange, grape fruits etc)
- Synthetic Syrup, Ginger Cocktail, Ginger Beer, Ginger Ale and Sharbats

- Bottled and Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Jams and Fruit Cheese
- Fruit Jellies and Marmalades
- Candied and Crystallised or 'Glazed Fruit and Peel
- Preserves
- Fruit Chutneys
- Tomato Juice and Soups
- Vegetable Soups
- Tomato Puree and Paste
- Tomato Ketchup and Sauce
- Sauces other than Soya Bean Sauce and Tomato Sauce
- Soya Bean Sauce
- Tamarind Concentrate
- Brewed and Synthetic Vinegar
- Pickles in Vinegar
- Pickles in Citrus Juice or in Brine
- Oil Pickles
- Sun-dried and Dehydrated Fruits
- Mango Cereal Flakes
- Sun-dried and Dehydrated Vegetables
- Dehydrated Onions

Other than these specifications the order also lays down specific requirements in regard to the following:

- Containers and labelling Requirements
- Limits of Poisonous Metals in Fruit Products
- List of Permissible Harmless Food Colours
- Limits for Permitted Preservatives in Fruit Products
- Other Permitted Additives