

ACTION TAKEN REPORT OF BIS

The Expert Committee made four specific recommendations on regulatory aspects out of which, the following were pertains to FSSAI & BIS.

1) Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018 and IS 14543 (Packaged Drinking water): To remove the restriction on the use non-transparent bottle for drinking water to enable businesses to explore the possibilities of use of alternatives other than the PET currently in use [*Action to be taken up by the –FSSAI&BIS*].

STATUS:

a) Indian Standards published by BIS:

BIS has published the following Indian Standards which may be used as alternatives to plastics:

- i) IS/ ISO 17088:2012 Specifications for Compostable Plastics
- ii) IS 1107:1986 Aerated water glass bottles crown finish type
- iii) IS 11984:1986 Glass bottles for free flowing liquids
- iv) IS 14407: 1996 Aluminium cans for beverages – Specification

b) Formulation of new Indian Standard:

The following subjects were identified for the formulation of Indian Standards as alternatives to plastics:

i) Indian Standards on ‘Paper based multilayer composite carton for processed liquid food products’.

Draft Indian Standard on ‘Paper based multilayer composite carton for processed liquid food products’ has been issued into Wide Circulation with last date of comment 22/01/2020. Comments received on the draft were discussed in the meeting of Paper based Packaging materials Sectional Committee, CHD 16 held on 21-08-2020. Based on the deliberation held during the meeting, it was decided that the concerned panel CHD 16 : P 5 would redraft the document which would again be sent into wide circulation after obtaining the approval of the Chairman, CHD 16.

ii) Indian Standard on ‘Compostable plastics bottles/ containers for the Packaging of Natural Mineral Water and Drinking Water’.

During 29th Meeting of Plastics Packaging Sectional Committee (PCD 21) held on 06 Dec 2019, the Committee considered the Hon’ble NGT order dated 14/10/2019. Further, the Committee noted that this a new type of material for packaging purposes and to know about the characteristic of the material and product, manufacturers of the bottle/ experts should be invited in the next meeting for representation/ discussion.

c) Amendment to IS 14543:2016 ‘Packaged Drinking Water (Other than Packaged Natural Mineral Water) and IS 13428:2005 ‘Packaged Natural Mineral Water’.

The Drinks & Drinking Water Sectional Committee, FAD 14 in its 27th meeting held on 03/12/2019 took note of the directions of the Hon’ble NGT order dated 14/10/19 in the matter to remove the restriction on the use non-transparent bottle for drinking water to enable businesses to explore the possibilities of use of alternatives other than the PET currently in use.

The Committee was of the opinion that the transparency requirements are prescribed in the FSSAI’s Packaging Regulations and decided that appropriate amendments to IS 14543 as well as IS 13428 may be issued for printing/ publication by BIS directly by waiving-off wide circulation (considering harmonization with the National Regulations and compliance to the directions of the Hon’ble NGT on the matter) as soon as a notification to this effect is issued by FSSAI.

The Committee further decided to recommend that alternative food-grade packaging materials (such as Paper Based Multilayer packaging, metal cans, etc.) suitable for drinking water may be considered for incorporation in IS 14543 & IS 13428 after the above developments take place.

FSSAI had issued Directions dated 07th Feb 2020 under Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 regarding operationalization of *Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Amendment Regulations, 2020* relating to Specific Migration Limits of Antimony and DEHP and Packaging of Drinking Water. The para 2 (1) of the said draft regulations state that ‘Other food grade packaging materials compatible with the water to be packaged may also be used. In such cases, requirement of transparent bottle would not apply’. FSSAI was requested by BIS to further clarify on para 2 (1) of the said draft regulations for ‘Other food grade packaging materials compatible with the water....’ w.r.t. its mode of implementation, testing/ verification and enforcement before the same could be considered for amendments in IS 14543 & IS 13428. Based on the response received from FSSAI on the matter vide their mail dated 08 July 2020 the following was elucidated:

- a. The amended/ revised sub-regulation (4) of Regulation (4) of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018 pertains to Plastic materials intended to come in contact with food products.
- b. In this case, the ‘other food packaging material’ may include the following:
 - i) Paper-based Multilayer packaging with plastic as primary food contact layer with water
 - ii) Biodegradable and compostable plastics
- c. The testing of such materials may be done as per the existing BIS standards/ methods which are followed for testing for conventional plastics excluding transparency and physical properties. Biodegradability and compostability tests may be done additionally in case of Biodegradable/ compostable plastics.
- d. The size/ capacity of such materials may be considered accordingly.

The draft amendments to these ISs would be taken up with the FAD 14 Committee for deliberations.

2) Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018; IS 14534 (Guidelines for Recycling of Plastics); and Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016: The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) permits the use of recycled PET in food packaging under certain set protocols. To explore the possibilities for removal of ban on use of recycled plastic in food packaging after a scientifically validated method of pre-cleaning of plastic waste is developed to ensure that the final product using recycled material does not pose any health risk [*Action to be taken up by the –FSSAI&BIS*].

STATUS:

BIS has published IS 16630 (Part 1): 2018 ‘Plastics- Post Consumer Poly Ethylene Terephthalate PET Bottle Recyclates Part 1 Designation System and Basis for Specifications’.

This standard establishes a designation system for post-consumer poly (ethylene terephthalate) (PET) bottle recyclates, which may be used as the basis for specifications. This standard is applicable to all PET bottle recyclates. It applies to material ready for normal use in the form of powder, flakes or pellets.

However, BIS will participate in the development of a processes, which may be use to produce recycled PET intended for food packaging applications by FSSAI.

Further, IS 14534:2016 ‘Plastics — Guidelines for the Recovery and Recycling of Plastics Waste’ will be amended after removal of ban on use of recycled PET in food packaging by MoEF&CC and FSSAI.