

FSSAI notifies quality standards for basmati rice

ENSURING PURITY. Norms to come into effect from Aug 1; provision for blended rice, too

Our Bureau
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The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the quality standards for basmati rice. This has been done to ensure genuine basmati rice is sold to consumers in domestic and international markets. The quality standards will come into effect from August 1, a Ministry of Health and Family Welfare statement said.

The order on basmati standards has come out with a separate provision on blended rice in which basmati can be mixed.

The FSSAI has notified standards for various types of basmati, including brown basmati rice, milled basmati rice, parboiled brown basmati rice and milled parboiled basmati rice. "Basmati rice shall possess



RETAINING AROMA. The norms are aimed at establishing fair practices in the trade and protecting consumer interest

natural fragrance characteristic of basmati rice and be free from artificial colouring, polishing agents and artificial fragrances," the food safety authority stated. The standards have been set for various identity and quality parameters for basmati rice. This includes the

average size of grains and their elongation ratio after cooking, maximum limits of moisture, amylose content, uric acid, defective/damaged grains and incidental presence of other non-basmati rice among others.

"The standards are aimed at establishing fair practices in the

trade of basmati rice and protect consumer interest, both domestically and globally. These standards will be enforced with effect from August 1, 2023," the statement said.

BROKEN, BLENDED

Standards have also been notified for broken basmati rice. "The type of broken rice, such as Tibar, Dubar, Mogra, shall be prominently mentioned on the label," the FSSAI notification stated..

For blended rice, the food safety authority has defined it as a mixture of basmati and non-basmati rice "which resemble each other as closely as possible in final attributes and shall be free from off odour." It also stated that every package of blended rice will need to mention the name, type and percentage of the rice that it contains on the label.