

**File No. RCD-12005/1/2021-Regulatory-FSSAI (E-1125)**  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India  
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act,2006)  
**(Regulatory Compliance Division)**  
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002

**Dated, November, 2023**

**To**

1. Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs
2. All Regional Directors
3. All Central Licensing Authorities

**Subject: Use of *Steviol glycoside* (stevia) in ‘cocoa and chocolate products’ and ‘imitation chocolate’– reg.**

In suppression of letter of even number dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021 regarding the subject cited above, it is to inform that at present ‘steviol glycoside (INS 960)’ as an additive is not permitted for use in ‘Cocoa and Chocolate products’ (FCS 5.1.3) and ‘Imitation chocolate, chocolate substitute products’ (FCS 5.1.4) as per extant FSS (Food Product Standards & Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

2. Further, as per the amendment in Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-Specific Food and Food Ingredients) Regulation, 2017, application for approval is considered for the ‘Food Additives’ that are ‘not listed in Food Safety and Standards Regulation (FSSR)’. Since, ‘steviol glycoside’ is permitted as an additive in other food categories such as Dairy-based drinks, Powder analogues, Dairy based desserts, Edible ices, Canned or bottled (pasteurized) fruit etc., the Food Business Operators (FBOs) cannot seek approval as ‘Non-Specified Food/Food Ingredient/Food Additive’ under FSS (Approval for Non-Specific Food and Food Ingredients) Regulation, 2017.

3. Hence, as per the extant Food Safety and Standards Regulation (FSSR), ‘steviol glycoside’ cannot be used in such products till any decision in this regard is made by the Authority.

4. In view of the above, the FBOs are directed to ensure that such products are not manufactured and/or sold in the market/e-commerce platform. Further, all Central Licensing Authorities and Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs are hereby requested to take note of above provision for further necessary action.

5. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours sincerely,

(Rakesh Kumar)  
Director (Regulatory Compliance Division)

**Copy to:** CTO, FSSAI- For placing the order on FSSAI's website for information and necessary action.