LEGAL METROLOGY

# Veg and non-veg dots on cosmetics move from required to permitted

G.S.R. 826(E) omits rule 6(8), which required a veg or non-veg dot on cosmetics and toiletries, and adds the dot to the extra declarations rule 6(4A) permits.

THE DEPARTMENT OF Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, issued notification G.S.R. 826(E), dated September 21, 2026, making the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2026. It was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 756, dated September 21, 2026. The Central Government made the rules under section 52(1), read with clauses (j) and (q) of section 52(2), of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, and they come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. They amend rule 6 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. The notification is signed by Anupam Mishra, Additional Secretary, under F. No. I-7/7/2015-W&M.

KEY FACTS

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Notification G.S.R. 826(E), the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2026

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Legal Metrology · September 21, 2026

The Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, issued notification G.S.R. 826(E), dated September 21, 2026, making the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2026. It was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 756, dated September 21, 2026. The Central Government made the rules under section 52(1), read with clauses (j) and (q) of section 52(2), of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, and they come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. They amend rule 6 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. The notification is signed by Anupam Mishra, Additional Secretary, under F. No. I-7/7/2015-W&M.

The notification makes two changes. It inserts a new clause (d) in sub-rule (4A) of rule 6: "in the case of soap, shampoo, tooth paste, other cosmetics and toiletries, a red or, as the case may be, a brown dot for products of non-vegetarian origin and a green dot for products of vegetarian origin, at the top of the principal display panel." It also omits sub-rule (8) of rule 6.

Sub-rule (8) was inserted by G.S.R. 137, dated June 16, 2014, in force from July 1, 2014. It read: "Every package containing soap, shampoos, tooth pastes and other cosmetics and toiletries shall bear at the top of its principal display panel a red or as the case may be, brown dot for products of non-vegetarian origin and a green dot products of vegetarian origin." None of the amendments notified between 2014 and this one changed it.

So the dot moves out of a sub-rule that said every such package "shall bear" it, and into sub-rule (4A). Sub-rule (4A), inserted by G.S.R. 629(E) of June 23, 2017 and not amended again before this notification, opens: "Nothing in this rule shall preclude a manufacturer or packer or importer to declare the following on the package, in addition to the mandatory declarations". Its other clauses are (a) a barcode, GTIN or QR code, (b) an "e-code" for net quantity assurance and other required declarations, and (c) logos of Government schemes where the Central Government authorizes their use. The colors and the place on the package, the top of the principal display panel, are the same as before.

The notification gives no reasons for the change. It does not define products of vegetarian or non-vegetarian origin, and it sets no transition period: the change applies from the date of publication.

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| Issued by | Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution |
| Document | Notification G.S.R. 826(E), the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2026 |

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| Dated | September 21, 2026 |
| Published | Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 756, September 21, 2026 |
| Takes effect | On the date of publication in the Official Gazette; the Gazette is dated September 21, 2026 |
| Amends | Rule 6 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011: clause (d) inserted in sub-rule (4A); sub-rule (8) omitted |
| Applies to | Manufacturers, packers and importers of packaged soap, shampoo, tooth paste, other cosmetics and toiletries |
| The dots | Red or brown for products of non-vegetarian origin, green for products of vegetarian origin, at the top of the principal display panel |
| Rule 6(8) before | Every such package "shall bear" the dot; inserted by G.S.R. 137 of June 16, 2014, in force from July 1, 2014 |
| Rule 6(4A) | Declarations a manufacturer, packer or importer is not precluded from making, in addition to the mandatory declarations |
| Legal basis | Section 52(1), read with section 52(2)(j) and (q), Legal Metrology Act, 2009 |
| Signed by | Anupam Mishra, Additional Secretary |
| File number | F. No. I-7/7/2015-W&M |

The notification (PDF, 999 KB)

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