

Tag abuse charge against water units

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Calcutta: Three packaged water-manufacturing units in Sonarpur have been found printing the ISI mark on their products without the licence to do so, the national standards body has revealed.

The Bureau of Indian Standards raided the three facilities on the southern fringe of the city simultaneously last month.

"We had information that the units were using the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) mark without the approval of the bureau," an official in the bureau's eastern regional office in Calcutta said.

The bureau has issued a statement naming the three companies — N Saha and Beverage, Aqua Star and Prapti Beverage. All the jars seized from the premises of the companies are of 20 litres, the

statement said.

The companies market their products under the brand names Nakshatra Aqua, Aqua Star and PS Green.

The firms could not be reached for comment.

Following the raid, the bureau teams told the owners to stop manufacturing packaged water.

"We do not have the authority to seal a manufacturing unit. The matter will be reported to court and we will abide by the court order," said Vishnu Gupta, deputy director general (east) of the bureau.

If the units do not stop manufacturing packaged water, the bureau can approach court and plead for an order to seal the units.

A manufacturing unit can print the ISI mark on its products only if the bureau allows it to.

A manufacturer has to

apply to the bureau for the licence to use the tag, following which the national body conducts an inspection.

"We inspect the manufacturing unit to find out whether they have a laboratory to conduct tests on their own. We also collect samples from their factory and test them independently," Gupta said.

The manufacturer is granted the licence for a year if the samples are found to adhere to the standards set by the bureau.

"Only someone who has been granted the licence can use the ISI mark," Gupta said.

Atin Ghosh, mayoral council member in charge of health at the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, told Metro on Monday that teams from the civic health department conducted surprise visits to units involved in manufacturing packaged water.



RAIN RELIEF: A rain-soaked evening. Rain made a comeback three sultry days and more rain few days. Joka recorded the most. Most other places in the city recorded 5mm rain. "The monsoon trough Bengal, which is why rainfall was