

Farm Structures FACTSHEET



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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BASIC LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-FARM PROCESSED PRODUCTS

Pre-packaged products must show the following basic information:

1. The common name. This is the name defined by the regulations, i.e. orange juice. If the name is not prescribed by regulations, it is the name by which the food is generally known, i.e. orange drink.

Note: If a standardized common name is used, the product must conform to the compositional requirements prescribed by the regulations.
2. A metric net quantity declaration. The avoirdupois measure, i.e. fluid ounces, may be declared if it is grouped with the metric declaration.
3. A list of all ingredients and their components in descending order by weight. The components of the ingredients must be declared unless the ingredient is exempt by Section B.01.009 (see attached) of the Food and Drug Regulations. Some ingredients are exempt from component disclosure based on the amount of ingredient being used. For example, vegetable oils are exempt from component declaration if the amount used is less than 10% of the total product. Components are considered to be ingredients of ingredients.
4. The name and address declaration of the responsible company. The company name declared must be the legal registered company name.

5. If the product has a durable life of ninety days or less, a "best before" date must be declared, as prescribed by Section B.01.007 of the Food and Drug Regulations (see attached), unless it is specifically exempted. If storage conditions other than room temperature are required, this must be stated on the label. A packaging date is required for fresh meat, poultry, fish and their by-products. Durable life information must be shown near the display of these foods.

These are the basic labelling requirements. Other mandatory information may be required depending on the nature of the food or the types of claims being made.

The common name and net quantity declarations must be shown on the principal display panel (i.e. main panel). The other mandatory information may be shown on any other panel except the bottom of the container. Section 14 and 15 of the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Regulations (see attached) stipulates the minimum type size height required for the mandatory information.

All mandatory information must be bilingual, except the company name and address declaration which may be shown in either English or French. A local product is exempt from bilingual requirements. A product is considered to be a local product if it is manufactured, processed, produced or packaged and sold in the same local government unit or the next adjacent government unit. A local government unit means a city, metropolitan, municipal or other areas of local government but does not include ones located in a bilingual district.

SECTION B.01.009 FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS

B.01.009 (1) Components of ingredients set out in the following table are not required to be shown on a label:

TABLE
Ingredient

Item

1. butter
2. margarine
3. shortening
4. lard
5. leaf lard
6. monoglycerides
7. diglycerides
8. rice
9. starches or modified starches
10. breads subject to compositional standards in sections B.13.021 to B.13.029
11. flour except when an ingredient of enriched flour or graham flour
12. soy flour
13. enriched flour
14. graham flour
15. whole wheat flour
16. baking powder
17. milks subject to compositional standards in sections B.08.003 to B.08.027
18. chewing gum base
19. sweetening agents subject to compositional standards in sections B.18.001 to B.18.018
20. cocoa
21. salt
22. revoked by P.C. 1979-2453 of September 13, 1979
23. vinegars subject to compositional standards in sections B.19.001 to B.19.007
24. alcoholic beverages subject to compositional standards in sections B.02.001 to B.02.136
25. food colours
26. flavouring preparations
27. artificial flavouring preparations
28. spice mixtures
29. seasonings or herb mixtures
30. cheese, process cheese or cottage cheese when the total of such ingredients is less than 10% of the prepackaged product
31. jams, marmalades and jellies subject to compositional standards in sections B.11.201 to B.11.241 when the total amount of such ingredients is less than 5% of the prepackaged product
32. olives, pickles, relish and horse-radish when the total amount of such ingredients is less than 10% of the prepackaged product
33. vegetable, animal or marine oil or fat when the total amount of such ingredients is less than 10% of the prepackaged product
34. prepared or preserved meat, fish, poultry meat, meat by-product or poultry meat by-product when the total amount of such ingredients is less than 10% of a prepackaged product consisting of an unstandardized food
35. alimentary paste that does not contain any form of egg or any flour other than wheat flour
36. vitamin preparations
37. mineral preparations
38. food additive preparations
39. bacterial culture
40. rennet preparation
41. hydrolyzed plant protein
42. carbonated water
43. hydrogenated or modified vegetable, animal or marine oil or fat when the total amount of such ingredients is less than 10% of the prepackaged product
44. whey, whey powder, concentrated whey, whey butter and whey butter oil
45. mould culture
46. chlorinated water, fluorinated water
47. food flavour enhancers
48. gelatin

(1.1) Notwithstanding subsection (1), hydrogen is not required to be shown as a component of the ingredients set out in item 43 of the table to that subsection.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), where a component has been added to any ingredient of a prepackaged product as a source of a vitamin or mineral nutrient, the component shall be shown on the label as a component of that ingredient if

(a) the prepackaged product meets the requirements of section D.01.009, D.01.010 or D.02.009; or

(b) in the case of a prepackaged product that is subject to a compositional standard or to a specific nutritional requirement, the total amount of the vitamin or mineral nutrient in the prepackage product meets the requirements set out in the compositional standard or the specific nutritional requirements for that prepackaged product

(2.1) Any component that has been added as a source of a vitamin or mineral nutrient to an ingredient of a prepackaged product shall not be shown on the label unless it is required to be shown by subsection (2), except that in the case of the ingredient “enriched flour” any component thereof that has been added as a source of a vitamin or mineral nutrient may be shown by its common name within parentheses immediately following the words “enriched flour” on the condition that;

(a) notwithstanding sections D.01.007 and D.02.006, no statement is made on the label concerning the amount of the vitamin or mineral nutrient present in that product; and

(b) no other statement or claim pertaining to the vitamin or mineral nutrient content of the ingredient, component or product is made on the label of or in any advertisement for that product.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), where an ingredient set out in item 26, 27, 28 or 29 of the table to that subsection contains a component that is;

(a) a flavour enhancer*

(b) salt

(c) a food additive in an amount in excess of that required to produce the normal effect in the ingredient, or

(d) a food additive listed in Table X of Division 16, the component shall be shown in the list of ingredients as if it were an ingredient

B.01.010. (1) in this section, common name, includes a name set out in column II of the tables to subsection (3)

(2) an ingredient or component shall be shown in the list of ingredients by its common name

(3) for the purposes of subsection (2)

(a) the ingredient or component set out in column I of an item of the following table shall be shown in the list of ingredients by the common name set out in column II of that item:

TABLE

<i>Item</i>	<i>Column I Ingredient or component</i>	<i>Column II Common name</i>
1.	any oil, fat or tallow described in section B.09.002 of Division 9, except lard, leaf or suet	the name of the meat from which the oil, fat or tallow is obtained plus oil, fat or tallow
2.	shortening or margarine containing fats or oils, except shortening or margarine containing coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil or cocoa butter	shortening or margarine modified by vegetable oil or marine oil or by the common name of the vegetable, animal or marine oil or fat used
3.	shortening or margarine containing coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil or cocoa butter	shortening or margarine modified by the common name of the vegetable oil or fat used
4.	meat	the name of the meat
5.	poultry meat	the name of the poultry
6.	fish	the name of the fish
7.	plant protein product	the name of the plant plus protein product
8.	hydrolyzed plant protein produced by the enzymatic process	hydrolyzed plus the name of the plant plus protein
9.	any protein isolate	the name of the source of the protein plus protein or the common name of the protein isolate
10.	any meat by-product described in section B.14.003, other than gelatin	the name of the meat plus by-product or the name of the meat plus the name of the meat by-product
11.	any poultry meat by-product described in section B.22.003	the name of the poultry plus by-product or the name of the poultry plus the name of the poultry meat by-product

*(3) (a) Flavour enhancers

eg. Monosodium glutamate
Hydrolyzed Plant (animal) protein

12. any oil or fat referred to in section B.09.002 that has been hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated, including tallow, but not including lard
13. any oil or fat referred to in section B.09.002 of Division 9, including tallow, that has been modified by the complete or partial removal of a fatty acid
14. one or more vegetable fats or oils that have been hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated, except coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil or cocoa butter
15. coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil or cocoa butter that has been hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated
16. one or more marine fats or oils that have been hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated
17. one or more vegetable fats or oils that have been modified by the complete or partial removal of a fatty acid, except coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil or cocoa butter
18. coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil or cocoa butter that has been modified by the complete or partial removal of a fatty acid
19. one or more marine fats or oils that have been modified by the complete or partial removal of a fatty acid

hydrogenated” *plus the name of the meat from which the oil, fat or tallow is obtained, plus oil, fat or tallow*

modified *plus the name of the meat from which the oil, fat or tallow is obtained, plus oil, fat or tallow*

hydrogenated vegetable oil *or* hydrogenated vegetable fat *or* hydrogenated *plus the specific name of the oil or fat*

hydrogenated *plus the specific name of the oil or fat*

hydrogenated marine oil *or* hydrogenated marine fat *or* hydrogenated *plus the specific name of the oil or fat*

modified vegetable oil *or* modified vegetable fat *or* modified *plus the specific name of the oil or fat*

modified *plus the specific name of the oil or fat*

modified marine oil *or* modified *plus the specific name of the oil or fat*

(b) the ingredients or component set out in column I of an item of the following table may be shown in the list of ingredients by the common name set out in column II of that item:

TABLE

<i>Item</i>	<i>Column I Ingredient or Component</i>	<i>Column II Common Name</i>
1.	one or more vegetable fats or oils, except coconut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil or cocoa butter	vegetable oil or vegetable fat
2.	one or more marine fats or oils	marine oil
3.	one or more of the colours listed in Table III of Division 16	colour
4.	one or more natural flavours, except food additives listed in Table X of Division 16	flavour
5.	one or more artificial flavours, except food additives listed in Table X of Division 16	artificial flavour, imitation flavour or simulated flavour
6.	one or more spices, seasonings or herbs except salt	spices, seasonings or herbs
7.	any combination of milk, skim milk, reconstituted milk, reconstituted skimmed milk, partly skimmed milk, concentrated milk, condensed milk, milk powder, skim milk powder, evaporated milk, evaporated skim milk, evaporated partly skimmed milk, skim milk with added milk solids, partly skimmed milk with added milk solids, cream, reconstituted cream, butter and butter oil	milk solids or dairy ingredients
8.	any combination of disodium phosphate, monosodium phosphate, sodium hexametaphosphate, sodium tripolyphosphate, tetrasodium pyrophosphate and sodium acid pyrophosphate.	sodium phosphate or sodium phosphates
9.	one or more species of bacteria	bacterial culture
10.	one or more species of mould	mold culture or mould culture
11.	preparation containing rennin	rennet
12.	<i>Endothia parasitica, Mucor miehei or Mucor pusillus lindt</i>	microbial enzyme

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (2) and subsection B.01.008 (5), where a food contains ingredients of the same class, those ingredients may be shown by a class name if:

- (a) they consist of more than one component and are not listed in the table to subsection B.01.009 (1); and
(b) their components are shown
- (i) immediately after the class name of the ingredients of which they are components, in such a manner as to indicate that they are components of the ingredients, and
 - (ii) in descending order of their collective proportion of those ingredients.

SECTION B.01.007 FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS

DURABLE LIFE DATE REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-FARM PROCESSED GOODS

DEFINITIONS

Durable life – the period, commencing on the day of which a prepackaged product is packaged for retail sale, during which the product, when it is stored under conditions appropriate to that product, will retain without an appreciable deterioration, its normal wholesomeness, palatability, nutritional value and any other qualities claimed for by the manufacturer.

Durable life date – the date on which the durable life of a prepackaged product ends.

Packaging date – the date on which a food is placed in an immediate package in which it will ultimately be sold to a customer.

REQUIREMENTS

Where the durable life of a prepackaged product is ninety days or less, the following information must be declared on any part of the label except for the bottom of the container:

- the durable life date; and
- the instructions for the proper storage of the prepackaged product if it requires storage conditions different from normal room storage conditions; and

in the case of prepackaged fresh or previously frozen meat, poultry or fish or their by-products;

- the packaging date; and
- the durable life of the food, except when the durable life appears on a poster next to the food

Note: The durable life date may be shown on the bottom of the package if the location of this information is clearly indicated elsewhere on the label, i.e. “best before date shown on bottom”.

EXEMPTIONS

The following prepackaged products are exempt from a durable life date declaration:

- fresh fruit and vegetables
- individual portions of food that are served by a restaurant or other commercial enterprise with meals or snacks
- individual servings of food that are served by a commissary and sold by automatic vending machines or mobile canteens
- prepackaged doughnuts

MANNER OF DECLARATION

The durable life date shall be shown in the following manner:

- The words “best before” and “meilleur avant” shall be shown grouped together with the durable life date unless a clear explanation of the significance of the durable life date appears elsewhere on the label;

where, for the sake of clarity, it is necessary to show the year in which the durable life date occurs, the year shall be shown first and shall be expressed by a least the last two numbers of the year;

the month shall be shown in words after the year, if the year is shown, and may be abbreviated as follows:

JA for January
FE for February
MR for March
AL for April
MA for May
JN for June

JL for July
AU for August
SE for September
OC for October
NO for November
DE for December

Note: These are the only abbreviations accepted for use in the durable life date declaration.

- the day of the month shall be shown after the month and shall be expressed in numbers.

Except as otherwise provided in the Food and Drug Regulations, no person shall use a durable life date marking system on the label of a prepackaged product or in advertising a prepackaged product other than the marking system set out in this section.

The packaging date must be shown in the form and manner as prescribed for the durable life declaration except the terms “best before/meilleur avant” are replaced by “Packaged on/emaquette le”.

SECTIONS 14, 15 AND 16

CONSUMER PACKAGING AND LABELLING REGULATIONS

SIZE OF TYPE IN WHICH INFORMATION IS TO BE SHOWN

Section 14

- 14.1 For the purpose of this section and sections 15 and 16, the “height” of a letter means the height of an upper case letter where words appear in upper case and the height of the lower case letter “o” when words appear in lower case or in a mixture of upper and lower case.
- 14.2 The numerical quantity in the declaration of net quantity shall be shown in bold face type in letters of not less than the following heights:
- a) 1/16 inch (1.6 millimetres) where the principal display surface of the container is not more than 5 square inches (32 square centimetres);
 - b) 1/8 inch (3.2 millimetres) where the principal display surface of the container is more than 5 square inches (32 square centimetres) but not more than 40 square inches (258 square centimetres).
 - c) ¼ inch (6.4 millimetres) where the principal display surface of the container is more than 40 square inches (258 square centimetres) but not more than 100 square inches (645 square centimetres).
- 14.3 Where a container is mounted on a display card, the declaration of net quantity may be shown on the principal display panel of the label applied to the display card but the height of the letters, in the numerical quantity of the declaration of net quantity, shall, for the purpose of sub-section (2), be proportionate to the total area of the side of the display card that is displayed or visible under normal or customary conditions of sale or use and not to be the principal display surface of the container.
- 14.4 All information in the declaration of net quantity, other than the information referred to in sub-section (2), shall be shown in letters of not less than 1/16 inch (1.6 millimeters) in height.

Section 15

Information that is required by the Act and these Regulations to be shown on a label, other than in the declaration of net quantity, shall be shown in a manner easily legible to the consumer under normal or customary conditions of sale or use and shall be in letters of not less than 1/16 inch (1.6 millimeters) in height.

Section 16

Notwithstanding section 15, where the area of the principal display surface of a container is 1.55 square inches (10 square centimetres) or less and where all the information that is required by the Act or these Regulations to be shown on a label is shown on the principal display panel, such information, other than the information in the declaration of net quantity, may be in letters of not less than 1/32 inch (0.8 millimetres) in height.

(Information extracted from publications by Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Canada)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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