

Safe Food for Canadians Act &
Proposed Changes under the New Regulations

FOOD LABELLING MODERNIZATION PRESENT AND FUTURE

Food Labelling Modernization (FLM)

Present

Federal oversight for food labelling is shared between Health Canada and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Health Canada is responsible for administering health, safety and nutrition requirements. CFIA is responsible for non-food safety requirements and enforcement.

Food Labelling comply with Foods and Drugs Act (FDA) and the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act (CPLA) and Regulations.

Food products require labelling, core labelling requirements, food-specific labelling, claims and statements, some exemptions apply.

Commodity-specific labelling, mandatory common names, date markings, country of origin, specific container sizing requirements. English and French labelling.

Certain labelling exemptions apply to one bite confections sold individually and fresh fruits and vegetables. Specific claims and statements on labels are regulated and be in compliance.

Consumer packaging and Labelling Act exempt certain prepackaged products. Prepackaged foods with more than one ingredient must declare the ingredients and components in a declared list of ingredients unless exemption applies. Food allergen declaration, gluten and sulphite labelling must be present.

Future

To introduce a modernized food labelling system, update regulations and a new approach for truthful and not misleading food labeling. Modernization Initiative develops a more modern food labeling system. More alignment with the International Standards (Codex Alimentarius) and US standards.

CFIA and Health Canada labelling requirement proposed changes coming into effective in 2022.

Proposed

Key Regulatory changes:

- **Date Marking** – increased flexibility in format options and the addition of the year;
- **Food company information** – add telephone number, email address, website or other information to contact
- **Origin of imported food** – add consistency across foods by requiring “product of(name of country)” on label when food is wholly imported;
- **Legibility** – consistent requirements for type height, contrast, upper/lower case letters;
- **Key ingredients emphasized through claims or pictures** – require a declaration of the percentage of the emphasized ingredients in the list of ingredients;
- **Incorporation by Reference (IbR)** – compositional standards, standard container sizes and class names, new beer standards;
- **Modified standardized common names**; and
- **Commodity-specific labelling** – deregulate if they is no longer any health, safety or consumer concerns