

Coding and Labelling of Food packages (1)

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Introduction

- To ensure product quality and provide safety to the consumer, it is important to regulate manufacturing, distribution, marketing and retailing of packaged products.
- This can be achieved by mandating rules and regulations.
- The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which consolidates various acts and orders that have handled food related issues
- The Indian Parliament has passed the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 that overrides all other food related laws.
- It was followed by Food safety and Standards Rules 2011 & Food Safety and Standards Regulation 2011.

The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011

- These rules may be called “The legal metrology (packaged commodities) Rules, 2011. These shall come into force from 1st March 2011.

Declaration to be made on every package

1. The name and address of the manufacturer
2. The common generic names of the commodity contained in the package
3. The net quantity in terms of standard unit of weight or measure of the commodity
4. The month and year in which the commodities is manufactured
5. The retail sale price of the package
6. Such other matter as are specified in these rules

The maximum permissible error, in excess or in deficiency, in the net quantity by weight or volume of any commodity shall be as specified below-

| Sr. No. | Declared quantity | Maximum permissible error in excess or in deficiency | |
|---------|-------------------|--|---------|
| | | As percentage of declared quantity | g or ml |
| 1 | Upto 50 | 9 | - |
| 2 | 50 to 100 | - | 4.5 |
| 3. | 100 to 200 | 4.5 | - |
| 4. | 200 to 300 | - | 9.0 |
| 5. | 300 to 500 | 3.0 | - |
| 6. | 500 to 1000 | - | 15.0 |
| 7. | 1000 to 10000 | 1.5 | - |
| 8. | 10000 to 15000 | - | 150.0 |
| 9. | More than 15000 | 1.0 | - |

Commodities to be packed in specified quantities

| Commodity | Quantities in which to be packed |
|---|--|
| Baby food | 100gms,200gms,300gms,400gms,500gms,600gms,700gms,800gms 900 gms, 1 kg, 2kg, 5kg and 10 kg. |
| Uncanned packages of butter and margarine | 25 gms, 50 gms, 100 gms, 200gms, 500gms, 1kg, 2kg, 5kg and thereafter in multiples of 5 kg |
| Ghee & butteroil | 50 gms, 100 gms, 200gms, 500gms , 1 kg, 2kg, 3 kg, 5 kg. |
| Milk powder | Below 50 gms no restriction, 50 gms, 100gms, 200gms,500gms, 1 kg and thereafter in multiples of 500 gm. |

Package of Food to Carry a Label

1. Every package of food shall carry a label, it should contain:

(a) The name, trade name or description of food contained in the package

(b) The names of ingredients used in the product in descending order of their composition by weight or volume

In the case of artificial flavouring substances, the label may not declare the chemical names of the flavours

In the case of natural flavouring substances or nature-identical flavouring substances, the common name of flavours shall be mentioned on the label.

Also whenever Gelatine is used as an ingredient, a declaration to this effect shall be made on the label by inserting the word "Gelatine-Animal Origin."

When any article of food contains whole or part of any product of animal origin, but not including milk or milk products, as ingredient,

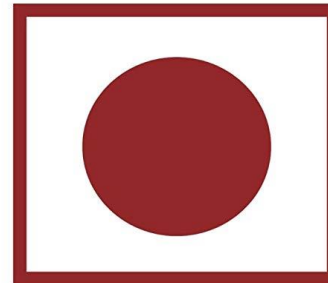
- (a) A declaration to this effect shall be made by a symbol and colour code so stipulated for this purpose to indicate that the product is Non-Vegetarian Food.
- (b) The symbol shall consist of a brown colour filled circle having a diameter not less than the minimum size specified, inside the square with brown outline having side double the diameter of the circle.

Area and Diameter of Non-vegetarian symbol to be printed on package

| Sr. No. | Area of principal display panel | Minimum size of diameter in mm |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Upto 100 cms square | 3 |
| 2 | Above 100 cms square upto 500 cms square | 4 |
| 3 | Above 500 cms square upto 2500 cms square | 6 |
| 4 | Above 2500 cms square | 8 |

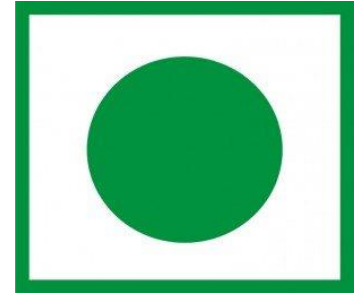
The symbol shall be prominently displayed

1. On the package having contrast background on principal display panel,
 2. Just close in proximity to the name or brand name of the product, and
 3. On the labels, containers, pamphlets, leaflets, advertisements in any media;
- Where any article of food contains egg only as Non-Vegetarian ingredient, the manufacturer, or packer or seller may give declaration to this effect in addition to the said symbol.
 - The provisions of these rules shall not apply in respect of any Non-Vegetarian Food which is manufactured and packed without the symbol before the commencement of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2001.



For all Vegetarian Food

The symbol shall consist of a green colour filled circle, having a diameter not less than the minimum size specified, inside the square with green outline having size double the diameter of the circle.



Area and Diameter of Vegetarian symbol to be printed on package

| Sr. No. | Area of principal display panel | Minimum size of diameter in mm |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Upto 100 cms square | 3 |
| 2 | Above 100 cms square upto 500 cms square | 4 |
| 3 | Above 500 cms square upto 2500 cms square | 6 |
| 4 | Above 2500 cms square | 8 |

The symbol shall be prominently displayed,

1. On the package having contrast background on principal display panel,
 2. Just close in proximity to the name or brand name of the product, and
 3. On the labels, containers, pamphlets, leaflets, advertisements in any media
- The provisions of these rules shall not apply in respect of any Vegetarian Food which is manufactured and packed without the symbol before the commencement of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (9th Amendment) Rules, 2001.
 - The provisions of the these rules shall not apply in respect of mineral water or packaged drinking water or carbonated water or liquid and powdered milk.



- In case both colour and flavour are used in the product, one of the following combined statements in capital letters shall be displayed just beneath the list of ingredients on the label attached to any package of food, so coloured and flavoured, namely:

(I) CONTAINS PERMITTED NATURAL COLOUR (S) AND ADDED
FLAVOUR(S)

OR

(II) CONTAINS PERMITTED SYNTHETIC FOOD COLOUR(S) AND
ADDED FLAVOUR(S)

OR

(III) CONTAINS PERMITTED NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC FOOD
COLOUR(S) AND ADDED FLAVOUR (S)

OR

(IV) CONTAINS PERMITTED NATURAL*/AND* SYNTHETIC*
COLOURS AND ADDED FLAVOURS

NOTE: A specific name shall be used for ingredients in the list of ingredients:

- For food additives, the following class titles shall be used together with the specific names or recognized international numerical identifications:
- Acidity Regulator, Acids, Anticaking Agent, Antifoaming Agent, Antioxidant, Bulking Agent, Colour, Colour Retention Agent, Emulsifier, Emulsifying Salt, Firming Agent, Flour Treatment Agent, Flavour Enhancer, Foaming Agent, Gelling Agent, Glazing Agent, Humectants, Preservative, Propellant, Raising Agent, Stabilizer, Sweetener, Thickener.
- For declaration of flavours on the label, the class of flavours namely, Natural Flavours and Natural Flavouring Substances or Natural-Identical Flavouring Substances or Artificial Flavouring Substances as the case may be, shall be declared on the label.

- (i) The name and complete address of the manufacturer and the manufacturing unit
- (ii) The label shall carry the name and complete address of the manufacturing or packing or bottling unit as the case may be, and also the name and complete address of the manufacturer or the company, for and on whose behalf it is manufactured or packed or bottled
- (iii) Where an article of food is imported into India, the package of food shall also carry the name and complete address of the importer in India.

In case of canned food, the batch number may be given at the bottom, or on the lid of the container, but the words "Batch No", given at the bottom or on the lid, shall appear on the body of the container. The month and year in which the commodity is manufactured or prepacked;

In case of package weighting 20 g or less and liquid products marketed in bottles which are recycled for refilling, particulars need not be specified.

- Such declarations shall be given on the label of multipiece package either on the label of multipiece package or in a separate slip inside the multipiece package in such a manner that the same is readable even without opening the package.
- In case of carbonated water containers and the packages of biscuits, confectionery and sweets, containing more than 60g, but not more than 120g, and food packages weighing not more than 60g. The words 'Batch no' or 'Batch' and net weight need not be specified. where the weight may be expressed in terms of either average net weight or minimum net weight.
- In case of packages containing bread and milk including sterilised milk, particulars need not be specified the batch number or lot number or code number being preceded by the words 'Batch No' or 'Batch' or 'Lot No' or, Lot or any distinguishing prefix..

- In case of package or bottle containing sterilised or Ultra High Temperature treated milk, soya milk, flavoured milk, any package containing bread, dhokla, bhelpuri, pizza, doughnuts, khoa, paneer, or any uncanned package of fruits, vegetable, meat, fish or any other like commodity, the declaration be made as follows:

"BEST BEFORE.....DATE/MONTH/YEAR"

OR

"BEST BEFORE DAYS FROM PACKAGING"

OR

"BEST BEFOREDAYS FROM MANUFACTURE"

OR

"BEST BEFORE UPTO.... DATE/MONTH/YEAR

OR

"BEST BEFORE WITHINDAYS FROM THE DATE OF
PACKAGING/MANUFACTURE"

Note:

- (i) Blank be filled up
- (ii) Month and Year may be used in numerals.
- (iii) Year may be given in two digits.

- The declaration of best before consumption shall not be applicable to the Packages of Aspartame and Infant milk substitute and Infant food".
- In case of any bottle containing liquid milk or liquid beverage having milk as an ingredient, soft drink, carbonated water or ready-to-serve fruit beverages, the declarations with regard to addition of fruit pulp and fruit juice as well as the “dated of manufacture” and “best before date” shall invariably appear on the body of the bottle.