

Rural Development Sub Committee

RDC(3)-06-09 Paper 4, Annex 1: 6 May 2009

Principal Food Labelling Requirements

The tables below specify the main current food labelling requirements, together with the most commonly used voluntary information provided by manufacturers and retailers.

Mandatory

The majority of these requirements only apply to certain foods, and foods containing certain ingredients.

Name	Quinine labelling *
List of ingredients	High caffeine content warning (drinks containing over 150 mg/l of caffeine) *
Allergen information (in the ingredient list)	Sweetener labelling (“with [sugar(s) and] sweeteners”) *
Quantity of certain ingredients (QUID) e.g. “Chicken (10%)”	Polyol warning (“excessive consumption may produce laxative effects”) *
Net quantity (Weights and measures)	PKU warning (“contains a source of phenylalanine”) *
Date of minimum durability (‘best before’ or ‘use by’ date)	Packaging gases (“packaged in a protective atmosphere”)
Special Storage Conditions/Conditions of use	Raw milk labelling
The name and address of the manufacturer/packer/seller	GMO labelling
Place of origin (if failure to do so might mislead)	Irradiated food labelling (“irradiated” or “treated with ionising radiation”)
Instructions for use (if failure to do so might mislead)	Nutritional Panel (where a nutritional claim is made e.g. “low fat”) ⁱ
Alcoholic strength by volume (drinks over 1.2% only)	

Voluntary (Examples)

The following is a list of examples of some of the information manufacturers / retailers commonly provide (on label) on a voluntary basis. For some of these there is EC legislation governing their use or otherwise UK guidance available.

Brand information	Environmental impact e.g. dolphin friendly.
Nutrition information (if no claims are made) ³	Production methods (organic etc)
Nutrition Signposting	Guideline Daily Amounts
Vegetarian/vegan labelling	Country of origin (where not required)

Assurance schemes	Logos (Red Tractor)
May contain ("may contain traces of nut)	Marketing Terms – Fresh, pure, natural
Special offer competitions e.g. Marketing offers, 3 for 2 etc.	Pictures and graphics, including flags and icons
Method of Slaughter (Halal and shechita slaughter)	Quality type claims e.g. "100% chicken breast"
Animal Welfare	Serving suggestions
Marketing Claims such as "No artificial additives" (similar claims)	Method of Production (free range etc)

^{*} these are examples of "double labelling". The ingredients must be declared in the ingredients list but supplementary wording is also required on the label.

ⁱ Nutrition labelling is compulsory on pre-packed foods where a nutrition claim is made e.g. "low fat" or "high in fibre", and on foods for particular nutritional uses. Otherwise it is voluntary. In both cases the nutritional information must be provided in the prescribed format in Council Directive 90/496/EEC