

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: June 15, 2023

Report Number: CE2023-0014

Report Name: Sri Lanka Enacts New Legislation to Color Code Sugar Levels for Liquid Food

Country: Sri Lanka

Post: Colombo

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

Prepared By: Thilani K. Kankanamge, Agricultural Specialist and Mariano J. Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Approved By: Mariano Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Report Highlights:

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka's (Sri Lanka) Ministry of Health recently introduced the Food (Color Coding for Sugar Levels - Liquid) Regulations (2022). These new regulations regulate the labeling of the sugar content of liquids effective January 1, 2024, replacing the current Food (Color Coding for Sugar Levels) Regulations (2016). The Sri Lankan government notified the new regulations (dated January 27, 2023) in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – Extraordinary (official gazette) on February 14, 2023. As per the new regulations, for pre-packaged imported products, a supplementary label may be affixed on the container or the package. The new regulations modify the sugar content values for each code, adding color codes in red, amber, and green. The sugar content must be displayed in bold white within the logo in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) website <http://www.slsi.lk/index.php?lang=en>. The U.S. Embassy in Colombo – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), USDA and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has not officially endorsed this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Sri Lankan officials at the time of product entry. [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links that do not open in Microsoft Edge].

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka’s (Sri Lanka) Ministry of Health recently introduced the [Food \(Color Coding for Sugar Levels - Liquid\) Regulations \(2022\)](#) (see, Appendix I). These new regulations regulate the labeling of the sugar content of liquids effective January 1, 2024, replacing the current [Food \(Color Coding for Sugar Levels\) Regulations \(2016\)](#). The Sri Lankan government notified the new regulations (dated January 27, 2023) in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – Extraordinary (official gazette) published on February 14, 2023.

Labeling of Sugar Levels in Liquids – The Current 2016 Regulations: The [Food \(Color Coding for Sugar Levels\) Regulations \(2016\)](#) regulate the labeling of the sugar level in liquid food effective August 1, 2016. Packed liquid foods, which contain sugar, are required to label and specify: the numerical description of the sugar content, include a description of the relative sugar level, and the color codes as per the regulations.

TABLE 1: Sri Lanka, Sugar Contents, Relative Sugar Levels, and Color Codes for Liquid Food

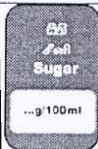

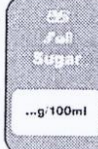
| Sugar Content (per 100 ml of drink) | Relative Sugar Level | Color Code |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| More than 11g | High Sugar | Red |
| 2g to 11g | Medium Sugar | Amber |
| Less than 2g | Low Sugar | Green |

Note: ml = milliliter; g = grams.

Source: Food (Color Coding for Sugar Levels) Regulations (2016).

Labeling of Sugar Levels in Liquids – The New 2022 Regulations: The Sri Lankan Ministry of Health notified on February 14, 2023, the [Food \(Color Coding for Sugar Levels - Liquid\) Regulations \(2022\)](#), requiring to color code sugar levels in liquid food. As per the new regulations, for pre-packaged imported products, a supplementary label may be affixed on the container or the package. The new regulations modify the sugar content values for each code, adding color codes in red, amber, and green. The sugar content must be displayed in bold white within the logo in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages.

TABLE 2: Sri Lanka, Sugar Contents, Color Codes, and Logos for Liquid Food

| Sugar Content (per 100 ml of drink) | Color Code | Logo |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| More than 8.0g/100 ml | Red |  |
| 2.5g to 8.0g/100 ml | Amber |  |
| Less than 2.5g/100 ml | Green |  |

Source: Food (Color Coding for Sugar Levels – Liquid) Regulations (2022).

The Food (Color Coding for Sugar Levels – Liquid) Regulations (2022) are not applicable for the following:

- Food which contains inherent sugar or added sugar in an amount less than 0.5g/100 ml.
- Bottled or packaged drinking water or natural mineral water.
- Any standardized milk, semi skimmed milk, low fat milk, skimmed milk, non-fat milk or toned milk which has been subjected to pasteurization or sterilization or Ultra Heat Treatment (UHT).
- Spices and spice mixes, food additives, flavoring substances, black tea, green tea, ground coffee, single ingredient herbal infusion, Bee honey, treacle and 100% glucose.
- Infant formula (starter), follow-up formula.
- Food for special dietary uses or where the label predominantly displays that it is to be used under medical guidance or on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner.
- Products packaged solely for export purpose.
- Bulk packs, where the retail packs contained therein complies with the new regulations.

APPENDIX I – Food (Color Coding for Sugar Levels - Liquid) Regulations (2022)



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ ගැසට් පත්‍රය
අති විශේෂ
The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2319/42 - 2023 පෙබරවාරි මස 14 වැනි දින දිනපතුවාදා - 2023.02.14
No. 2319/42 - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

L.D.B. 11/80 (29)

FOOD ACT, No. 26 OF 1980

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Health under Section 32 of the Food Act, No. 26 of 1980, in consultation with the Food Advisory Committee.

KEHELIYA RAMBUKWELLA,
Minister of Health.

Colombo,
27th January, 2023.

Regulations

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Food (Colour Coding for sugar levels - liquid) Regulations 2022 and shall come into operation on January 1, 2024.



2. (1) Any liquid food which is in a ready to drink form and which contains sugar shall be labeled in the manner as specified in these regulations.

(2) Where-

- (a) any liquid food has to be prepared or reconstituted without changing its liquid form before consumption in accordance with the directions specified in the label of the container of such food ; or
- (b) any solid or semi solid food has to be prepared or reconstituted and brought to liquid form before consumption in accordance with the directions specified in the label of the container of such food;

and such liquid or solid or semi solid food upon being so prepared or reconstituted contains sugar, the container of such food shall be labeled in the manner as specified in these regulations.

(3) Where any food referred to in this regulation is a pre-packaged imported product, a supplementary label may be affixed on the container or the package of such food and such label shall contain the logos as specified in these regulations.

3. (1) Where any food referred to in these regulations contains any amount of sugar specified in Column I of the Schedule hereto, the label of such container or the package which contains such food shall have the corresponding logo (hereinafter referred to as “the logo”) specified in Column III of the Schedule hereto in the corresponding colour specified in Column II of the Schedule hereto.

(2) The logo specified in sub-regulation (1) of this regulation shall be prepared, designed and displayed in accordance with the following :-

- (a) the height of the logo shall not be less than 2cm and the width of the logo shall not be less than 1cm ;
- (b) (i) a description of the “sugar” content in such food shall be as specified in Column III of the Schedule hereto and shall be displayed within the logo in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages respectively in bold white and shall be of minimum 2 mm font size ;
- (ii) a numeric description of the sugar content in such food shall be within a white box as shown in Column III of the Schedule hereto and shall be of minimum 1.5 mm font size in bold black.

4. The logo shall be displayed in the main panel of the label of the container or the package which contains such food.

5. Where any food referred to in these regulations contains in glass bottles, which are in circulation at the time of coming into operation of these regulations, the logo shall be displayed on the crown or closure of such glass bottle until May 1, 2024.

6. The provisions of these regulations shall not apply to :-

- (a) any food referred to in these regulations which contains inherent sugar or added sugar in an amount less than 0.5g/100 ml;
- (b) bottled or packaged drinking water or natural mineral water ;
- (c) any standardized milk, semi skimmed milk, low fat milk, skimmed milk, non fat milk or toned milk which has been subjected to pasteurization or sterilization or Ultra Heat Treatment (UHT) ;
- (d) spices and spice mixes, food additives, flavouring substances, black tea, green tea, ground coffee, single ingredient herbal infusion, Bee honey, treacle and 100% glucose ;
- (e) infant formulae (starter), follow - up formulae ;

- (f) and food for special dietary uses or where the label predominantly displays that it is to be used under medical guidance or on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner ;
- (g) products packaged solely for export purpose ;
- (h) bulk packs, where the retail packs contained therein complies with these regulations ; or
- (i) any food referred to in these regulations manufactured before the date on which these regulations come into operation.




7. Food (Colour Coding for Sugar levels) Regulations 2016 published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1965/18 of May 3, 2016 are hereby rescinded without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder.

8. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires -

- “amber” means R255, G195 and B9 in Red, Green, Blue colour system (RGB) or equivalent ;
- “green” means G195 in Red, Green, Blue colour system (RGB) or equivalent ;
- “main panel” means the part of the label which is most likely to be displayed, presented, shown or examined under customary conditions of display for retail sale ;
- “red” means R230 in Red, Green, Blue colour system (RGB) or equivalent ; and
- “sugar” means total sugar contained in food, in the form of monosaccharides and disaccharides.

SCHEDULE

(Regulation 3)

| <i>Column I Sugar content</i> | <i>Column II Colour</i> | <i>Column III Logo</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| more than 8.0g/100 ml | Red |  |
| 2.5g to 8.0g/100 ml | Amber |  |
| Less than 2.5g/100 ml | Green |  |

EOG 02- 0152

Attachments:

No Attachments.