

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Bangladesh issues Packaged Food Labelling Act 2017

**Country:** Bangladesh

**Post:** Dhaka

**Report Category:** Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

On May 9, 2017 the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority released the Packaged Food Labeling Act. As of March 7, 2021, Bangladesh has not notified the regulation to the WTO SPS Committee. This report contains an unofficial translation of the standard.

BEGIN TRANSLATION

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Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh

**Bangladesh Food Safety Authority**

**NOTIFICATION**

Dated: 6 Boishakh, 1424 Bengali Era/19 April 2017 AD

**S R O No. 93-Act/2017.** – In exercise of the powers conferred by section 87 of the Food Safety Act, 2013 (Regulation no. 43 of 2013), the Food Safety Authority, with the pre-permission of the Government, is pleased to enact the following rules and regulations, such as –

# First Chapter

## Prefatory

### 1. The Title and Enactment –

(1) this act will be called as Packaged Food Labelling Act, 2017.

(2) This act will come into force immediately.

### 2. Definitions—

(1) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

- a. “**Law**” means Food Safety Act, 2013 (Act no. 43 of 2013);
- b. “**Best Before**” date means the maximum period of safety when consuming food or food products, indicating that the product will retain its specific published and unpublished qualities in the prescribed preservation method, but after that time the quality of the food or food product may be satisfactory but not salable;
- c. “**Food consumer**” final consumer of a food or food product, who does not use the mentioned food or food product for any business purpose;
- d. “**Food Material**” any material or ingredient used in food preparation, no matter what they may be, are present in the final food, including food additives;
- e. “**Net weight**” means actual weight of the packaged material;
- f. “**Expiry Date**” or “**Use by Date**” means a specified period of time after which a food or food product, no matter where it is stored, may lose its expected normal quality and after that period the food or food product will not be marketable;
- g. “**Package**” means case, box, carton, packet, sack-pack, pot, container, wrapper, vessel, jar, bottle, can, band, ticket, reel, frame, cone, capsule, lid and other similar objects used to cover and preserve any product;
- h. “**Packaged food**” means food or food products that are already presented to the consumer or food supplier in a wrapper or container;

- i. **“Label”** any tag, brand, mark, image, mark, hallmark, graphics or descriptive instruction that is easily visible on a food wrapper, whether written, printed, sealed or by computerized printing by stencil, emboss or indelible ink Is made or added; and
- j. **“Labelling”** means an introductory description of a product, written, printed, or described in graphics form, displayed by inserting or adding to a label.

(2) All words or expressions used in these regulations but not defined or explained shall be used in the sense in which they are used in law.

(3) Excess of other laws – the provisions of these Regulations shall be deemed to be in addition to the provisions of other laws, rules and regulations in force for the time being regarding labeling.

## Second Chapter

### Labelling

#### 3. General conditions of packaged food labelling, etcetera –

(1) The following general conditions should be followed regarding the labelling of packaged food, such as:

- (A) The relevant information provided on the label of the packaged food prepared in the country should be recorded in Bengali language; However, if necessary, one or more foreign languages can be used besides Bengali;
- (B) In case of sale of imported packaged food in the domestic market of the country, if the label is in foreign language, a label or a sub-label should also be attached in Bengali;
- (C) Packaged food labels, containers or packaging should contain declarations of information on food and food additives inside;
- (D) The name and ingredients of the food should be clearly stated on the label or description label as easily as possible for the food consumer;
- (E) The label should be uncovered, easily visible and easy to read, and the font size should be determined in proportion to the size of the packaging, following international standards;
- (F) In order to prevent label separation from the packaging, appropriate procedures should be followed, depending on the type of packaging;
- (G) The presence of essential nutrients per 100 g or 100 mg or in each environment shall be declared on the label, as the case may be; However, there will be no obligation to mention the nutritional information of agricultural raw materials, such as grains, vegetables, spices, sugar and malnutrition;
- (H) If the field of vision of the packaging is less than 100 sq. centimeter, the label should not contain the list of relevant ingredients, nutritional information and usage rules, in case of—
  - (i) The insertion of such information in the packaging at the wholesale level is confirmed; and
  - (ii) Copies of such information in the form of leaflets are ensured as per the demand of the retail buyers.

(2) Following information should be clearly mentioned in the label, such as—

- (A) Name and address of the manufacturer, packager, supplier or marketer;
- (B) Food ingredient's or material's type and name (Natural and artificial);
- (C) Batch, code or lot number;
- (D) Net weight or volume or number and total weight;
- (E) Date of Manufacture;
- (F) Date of Packaging;
- (G) Expiry date or last date of use
- (H) Best before date
- (I) Information about nutritional value
- (J) Food additives; and
- (K) If it is not possible to use food or food products properly without instructions, its use instructions.

(3) According to the trade license, the name and full address of the food or food manufacturer must be clearly mentioned on the label following the below instructions, such as—

- (A) Name and full address of the head office registered in case of manufacturer having completed multiple on-site preparation units;
- (B) If there are more than one entity of manufacturer, packager, name and address of all entities;
- (C) Name and full address of the manufacturer and marketer's name and full address on contract prepared food products.

(4) In the case of imported food or food products, in addition to the name and full address of the manufacturer, the name and full address of the importer, where applicable, re-packager, distributor and agent should be mentioned: Provided that, the import policy issued by the government in this country, if there is any instruction in this regard, it must be followed compulsorily. Also provided that, no such word or expression may be expressed or declared on

the label, which implies that the imported product is of better quality than the locally produced product.

(5) In order to identify the source of the packaged food, the manufacturer must, in the shortest possible time, take the initiative to introduce a bar code on the label; However, until the use of bar code is implemented, all source identification information, such as raw materials, foodstuffs and packaging food at all stages of production and distribution, must be stored for a minimum of 3 (three) months after the expiry of the relevant food product and displayed to the food regulator as required.

(6) In the interest of ensuring safe food, where applicable, special instructions relating to food processing, packaging, preservation, storage, transportation and distribution, if any, must be stated on the packaged food label.

(7) The label may not express or declare an expression, such as—'recommended by a physician, specialist or equivalent person or organization', which may confuse the buyer.

(8) To increase the importance of food or food products, the label should not contain any misinformation, claims or misrepresentations or misleading information about the source of the claim, such as claims or sub-strategies or "cures", etc. Provided, however, that subject to the approval of the Government or any authority designated by it, a seal containing the provision of quality assurance may be issued.

(9) No food or food products may be sold by crossing over or deleting the information written on the packaged food or food products.

(10) In case of exportable food or food products, the buyer of the country or region concerned should be properly labeled as per the general demand.

**Explanation.** – Mentioned in this regulation –

(A) “**Traceability**” means the ability to trace the origin of food and its ingredients by reviewing specific steps of production, processing, distribution and marketing on the basis of evidence;

- (B) **“Batch”**, **“Code”**, or **“Lot”** means the latest produce of a certain amount of product, which has been produced in the same process and environment;
- (C) **“Total weight”** means the weight of the object in the container, including the weight of the container; and
- (D) **“Bar Code”** means an imprint with a black-and-white line design that contains information retrievable or readable by an electronic device; and
- (E) **“Claim”** means any kind of presentation that reveals the characteristic qualities of a food, such as its origin, nutritional properties, processing, composition, nature, etc., and any kind of presentation or description or suggestion, which is related to that quality, will be included.

**4. Special conditions for labeling packaged food consisting flavoring substances or pigments:**

The following conditions should be followed in terms of labelling packaged food consisting perfumes and pigments, such as—

- (A) The expression "natural flavor" or "naturally flavored" should be mentioned on the label of the food or food product if it contains a natural flavor;
- (B) The use of flavoring substances should include the expressions "approved natural" or "approved artificial" or "approved natural and synthetic flavors used";
- (C) If a food or food product contains natural pigment, the expression "natural pigment" or "contains natural pigment" should be mentioned on the label of the food and food product;
- (D) The use of pigments should include the expressions "approved natural" or "approved artificial" or "approved natural and synthetic pigments used";
- (E) No synthetic dyes or perfumes or synthetic dyes or perfume mixtures may be sold unless the following information is properly mentioned on the label, such as—
  - (i) The expression “Artificial pigments” or “Artificial perfumes”;
  - (ii) In general, and in case, Color Index Name;



- (iii) Lot number;
- (iv) Expiry date;
- (v) Net weight;
- (vi) Instruction on usage; and
- (vii) Manufacturer's name and address.

**Explanation.** — Mentioned in this regulation –

- (A) **“Pigments”** means anything that is added to food or food products only adds color without harmful or toxic effects on human health; and
- (B) **“Flavoring substance”** means any substance that is added to food or food products only enhances or spreads the aroma of food without harmful or toxic effects on human health and is added to food or food products as flavor.

**5. Special conditions for labeling packaged food consisting food additives** – following conditions should be followed in terms of labelling packaged food consisting food additives, such as—

- (A) Foods and food products containing food additives may not be labeled "Pure Food" or "Pure" or "Pure" or any similar expression on the container or package;
- (B) No food additives can be sold for food unless the label contains the following information about the product:
  - (i) Common name;
  - (ii) Chemical name;
  - (iii) Net weight;
  - (iv) Adequate guidelines for usage;
  - (v) Manufacturer's name and address; and
  - (vi) Expiry date.

**6. Special conditions in the case of packaged radiated food labeling**— Symbols of safe levels of internationally approved radiation and applicable provisions of existing law should include the following declaration on the label of the food or food product, such as –

- (A) Processed by radiation method;
- (B) Date, month and year of radiation;
- (C) Radiation unit; and
- (D) Aim of radiation.

**7. Special conditions for packaged food labeling that cause allergens or intolerant reactions-**

(1) Foods that cause allergies or intolerant reactions to packaged and processed foods and food products must be clearly stated on the label.

(2) The following foods or food products are considered causing allergen or intolerant reactions to sensitive consumers, such as –

- (A) Food consisting gluten, such as – wheat, rye, barley, wheat grains or hybrids of their ingredients and any products made from them;
- (B) Crustacean shellfish, shrimp, lobster, crab;
- (C) Egg;
- (D) Fish;
- (E) Peanuts;
- (F) Milk (including lactose);
- (G) Pine nuts, such as—almond, hazel nut, walnut, cashew nut, pecan nut, Brazil nut, pistachio nut and macadamia;
- (H) Food products or ingredients which contains sulfite volume of 10 mg per kilogram or more;
- (I) Mustard;
- (J) Sesame seed;
- (K) Soybean; and
- (L) Celery.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in the sub-regulation (1) and (2), there shall be no obligation to mention the name of the food product prepared from the following allergens or intolerant reactions on the label, such as—

- (A) Glucose syrup derived from wheat, dextrose, maltodextrine;
- (B) Glucose syrup derived from barley;
- (C) Gelatine derived from fish;
- (D) Completely refined soybean oil and fat;
- (E) Naturally mixed Tocopherol, such as—Tocopherol E-306, natural D-alpha Tocopherol, natural D-alpha Tocopherol acetate, natural D-alpha Tocopherol succinate and Stanol Ester; and
- (F) Dairy Lactitol.

**Explanation** – "Foods that cause allergies or intolerant reactions" referred to in this regulation means those foods or food products made from them which cause allergic reaction or intolerable reactions to the sensitive consumer.

**8. Special conditions on packaged baby food labelling –**


If any food or food product is declared fit to be used as a baby food or baby food supplement, the provisions of the 'Breastfeeding Alternatives, Baby Food, Commercially Prepared Baby Foods and Consumption Equipment (Marketing Control) Act, 2013' must be complied with.

**9. Special conditions on packaged vegetarian or non-vegetarian food labelling –**

Where applicable to the label of vegetarian or non-vegetarian food or food products, the expression "vegetarian or" non-vegetarian "shall be specified and the following procedure shall be followed in making such declaration, such as—

- (A) The declaration of non-vegetarian food should be made by the symbol described in the table below, the outline of which should be a circle covered with brown inside a brown square and the length of that square should be twice the diameter of the circle, such as—


**Table**

Color	Symbol
(1)	(2)
Brown color	

(B) If only the presence of eggs as a non-vegetarian ingredient in a food or food product exists, the manufacturer or packager or seller will have to declare the same on the additional label;

(C) Announcements about vegetarian food must be made through the symbols described in the table below, with a green circle on the outside and a circle covered with green on the inside, and the length of the arm of that square is twice the diameter of the circle, such as—

**Table**

Color	Symbol
(1)	(2)
Green color	

(D) The measurement of certain colored marks mentioned in section (A) and (C) shall be as follows—

**Table**

SI No.	Area of the main displayed panel (sq.cm)	Minimum diameter (mm)
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(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Until 100	3
2.	From 100 until 500	4
3.	From 500 until 2500	6
4.	Above 2500	8

(E) The specific color mark mentioned in section (A) and (C) should be clearly displayed as follows—

- (i) With contrast background on the main display panel of the package;
- (ii) As close as possible to the product name or brand name;
- (iii) Through labels, containers, brochures, leaflets and any advertising campaign.

**Explanation.** — Mentioned in this regulation —

(A) “**Non-vegetarian food**” means foods that are prepared in whole or in part from animal sources, such as animals, birds, fish and other animal ingredients, including eggs, but do not include dairy and dairy products;

(B) “**Vegetarian food**” refers to all foods or food products other than animal foods.

**10. Special conditions for labeling of packaged food with altered hereditary traits—**

If the agricultural product is produced through a change in hereditary traits, the expression "Genetically Modified Food" should be mentioned on the label of the packaging.

**11. Special conditions for labelling packaged processed milk—**

Following rules and methods need to be followed in terms of labelling processed milk, such as—

(A) In the case of "non-skimmed milk" or "pasteurized milk" or any other processed milk, in addition to explicitly mentioning the expression "non-skimmed milk" or "pasteurized milk" in the container, explicitly list the amount of skim, net milk quantity and ingredients used;

(B) The expression "unsuitable for children" should be clearly inscribed on the surface of each container, whether condensed milk, sweetened or unsweetened, full-fat or half-fat or non-skimmed; and

(C) In the case of both full fat and non-skimmed granulated milk, the method of production (spray, roller or fridge drawing) should be clearly written on the surface of each container, and in the case of sweetened or unsweetened granulated milk, the expression "not suitable for children" shall be clearly written.

**12. Inapplicability of certain regulations—**

Regulations 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 shall not apply to the sale of any food or food product to the final consumer without wrapping or to the packaging at the request of the consumer at the time of sale.

## Third Chapter

### Name of the food product, quantity, Unit food ingredient, Nutritional information, and Date of Use

#### 13. Name of the food or food product—

Following instructions need to be followed for naming of the packaged food, such as—

- (A) The name will be specific, not denominational, which will indicate the nature of the food;
- (B) Generally legal names should be used, but in the absence of such names common names and descriptive names should be provided if common names do not exist or are not used;
- (C) The name under which the sale will be made must be applicable in Bangladesh;
- (D) The name under which the sale will be made cannot be replaced by any trademark, brand name or fancy name;
- (E) In order to allay the suspicions of the buyer, the physical condition of the food or if certain processing procedures are followed, such as powdered, chilled, dried, frozen, condensed, smoked, etc., must be attached to the name to be sold; and
- (F) The name of the imported food or food product should be labeled in such a way that the consumer is not confused.

#### **Explanation** – mentioned in the regulation—

- (A) “**Legal name**” means a name specified by law, rule, regulation, notification or any other instrument of a food or food product, which is compulsorily used and the food or food product in question is sold to the food consumer or food supplier;
- (B) “**Common name**” refers to the name of a food or food product that is known and sold to the consumer in a particular area; and
- (C) “**Descriptive name**” refers to a name of a food or food product that describes the food or food product concerned and, if necessary, distinguishes the product from other products

and provides a clear idea of its use and proper nature in eliminating food consumer dilemmas.

**14. Quantity, unit and ingredients of food or food products—**

(1) Net weight and quantity of packaged food should be mentioned in the following way, such as—

(A) Volume's unit milliliter or liter in terms of liquid food; and

(B) Weight's unit milligram or gram or kilogram in terms of food other than liquid.

(2) In addition to the food of a single ingredient, the label should provide a list of the ingredients under the heading "Ingredients", which have been used in the manufacturing process.

(3) Water and volatile substances added to food or food products shall be included in the list in the following order of weight, the amount of which can be determined by subtracting from other materials used, provided that the amount of water added does not exceed 5% of the total weight.

**15. Nutritional information—**

(1) The following nutrition information must be declared on the label of the packaged food, such as—

(A) Energy value; and

(B) Quantity of fat, saturates, carbohydrate, sugar, protein and salt.

(2) In the presence of salt in a food or food product only for natural reasons, a statement may be issued in that regard, in addition to the declaration of nutrition.



(3) The amount of the following ingredients can be added to the content of the nutrition declaration mentioned in the sub-regulation (1), such as—

- (A) Mono-unsaturates;
- (B) Poly-unsaturates;
- (C) Trans-fat;
- (D) Cholesterol;
- (E) Poly-ol;
- (F) Fibre; and
- (G) Any related vitamins or minerals.

**16. Date of use of food and food products—**

(1) Each packaged food and food product packaging should clearly state the date of use following the instructions given below—

- (A) For fast perishable or short-term preserved food or food products, the "expiration date" or "last date of use" and for long-preserved food products, the "best before date" must be engraved in indelible ink or engraved;
- (B) The expressions "expiration date" and "last date of use" or "best before date" must be combined with the corresponding date; and
- (C) "Expiry date" and "last date of use" or "best before date" should be written in chronological order of days, months and years.

(2) No food or food products may be sold, marketed or distributed after the maximum date of good consumption.

## **Fourth Chapter**

### **Disseminating Misleading Information**

#### **17. Disseminating misleading information—**

(1) Misleading, untrue or falsely dependent information may not be inserted on the label in violation of any provision of this Regulation and no advertisement may be prepared, printed or disseminated using such information.

(2) If any person violates the provisions of sub-regulation (1), it shall be deemed to be in violation of sections 41 and 42 of the Act.

## **Fifth Chapter**

### **Miscellaneous**

**18. Inapplicability**— All provisions of Pure Food Rules, 1967 relating to the provisions of this Regulation shall come into force as soon as these Regulations come into force.

**19. Publication of English Translation**— After the introduction of these Regulations, the Authority may, if necessary, with the prior approval of the Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, publish an authentic English text of the Bengali text of this Regulation. Provided, however, that in case of conflict between the Bengali text and the English text, the Bengali text shall prevail.

By order of Bangladesh Food Safety Authority

**Mohammad Rahfuzul Haque**

Chairman.

END TRANSLATION

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.