



**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**  
**Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

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**Ministry of Health**

**No. 519 /MoH**

**Vientiane Capital, date 18 March 2009**

**REGULATION ON LABELING OF PREPACKAGED FOOD**

Reference to:

- The food law No 04/NA, dated May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004.
- The Prime Minister Decree No 114/PM, dated July 04<sup>th</sup> 2008 on the Organization and Function of the Ministry of Health.
- The submission of the Food and Drug Department

**The Minister of Health issued the regulation on Labelling of Pre packaged food as follows:**

**Group I**  
**General Principle**

**Article 1 Objectives and Outputs**

**1. Objectives**

This regulation defines the principles, rules, and measures on labelling and the label of pre-packaged food, in order to control and monitor that the label and food are actual and correct and to promote the development of the food business units.

**2. Outputs**

- To be a tool in controlling and monitoring the production,

importation and distribution of food in Lao PDR to comply with the required standard.

- To protect the health of consumers by providing general information on the label of pre-packaged food.

## **Article 2 Scope**

This regulation applies to business operators on production, processing, packaging, import-export and distributing food product.

## **Article 3 Definition of Terms**

**Claim** means any information which states, suggests or implies that a food has particular qualities relating to its origin, nutritional properties, nature, processing, composition or any other quality.

**Date of minimum durability or best before date** signifies the end of the estimated period under stated storage conditions during which the product will retain stated qualities and claims.

**Expiry date or use-by date means** signifies the end of the estimated period under any stated storage conditions after which the product will not have the attributes expected by consumers. After this date, the food should not be regarded as marketable.

**Food (Article 2 Lao Food Law)** is any substance which the human consumes and drinks in fresh, cooked, raw, or processed form, except drugs.

**Food additive** is any substance added in food for production, processing, treatment, packaging, transportation or storage purpose. These food additives do not include substances that enhance the nutritional quality or contaminate.

**Ingredients** are any substances, including food additives, used in the manufacture or preparation or treatment of a food and may be present in the final product although possibly in a modified form.

*Label* means any, tag, brand, mark, symbol, logo, pictorial or other descriptive matter written, printed, stencilled, marked, embossed or impressed on, or attached to a container of food or accompanying any food including that for the purpose of promoting its sale or disposal.

*Labelling* includes any written, printed or graphic matter or that is present on the label, accompanies the food, or is displayed near the food.

*Name of the food or appropriate designation of the food* means a name or a description being a specific and not a generic name or description, which shall indicate to a prospective purchaser the true nature of the ingredient, constituent or product to which it is applied.

*Nutrition labelling* is a description intended to inform the consumer of the nutrient content of a food.

*Pre packaged* means packaged or made up in advance in a container, ready for offer to the consumer or for catering purposes in such a way that the contents cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging.

## **Group II**

### **Labelling of pre-packaged food**

#### **Article 4: Food labelling**

Any pre-packaged food that is produced, processed, packed and distributed shall be correctly labelled. As part of logo or brand mark, labelling should contain the required basic information as below:

- The name of food
- List of ingredients
- Net contents and drained weight
- Name and address of the manufacturer or packer or distributor

- Date marking and storage instruction
- Instruction for use

### **Article 5: General requirement for labelling of food**

5.1. Every package containing food for sale shall bear on it a label containing the following particulars as below:

**a.) The name of the food or the appropriate designation**

**b.) List of ingredients**

(i) Where the food consists of two or more ingredient, other than water, ingredient (food additive and nutrient supplement) shall list in descending order of proportion by in going weight [m/m].

(ii) The presence of food and food ingredients obtained through certain techniques of genetic modifications/genetic engineering where and as required by national legislation.

(iii) In case of mixed or blended food, , words which indicate that the contents are mixed or blended, as the case may be, and such word shall be conjoined with the appropriate designation of the food "mixed ....." or "blended.....". The word "mixed or blended" shall not be conjoined with the appropriate designation of any food which does not comply with the standard prescribed by the issued regulation or Codex alimentarius.

(iv) The declaration of additives by type of food additives or class name or specific name of the additive. In addition, International Numbering System [INS] may also be indicated.

(v) The statement or declaration indicating that an ingredient which has been treated with ionizing radiation.

(vi) The following ingredients are known to cause hypersensitivity should always be declared:

- Cereal containing gluten, i.e. wheat, rye, barley, oat, spelt or their hybridized strain and products of these ;
- Crustaceans and product of these ;

- Eggs and egg products ;
- Fish and fish products ;
- Peanuts, soybeans and products of these ;
- Milk and milk products(lactose included) ;
- Tree nut and nut products ;
- Sulphite in concentrations of 10mg/kg or more

**c.) Net contents and drained weight**

- (i) The net contents or drained weight should be declared in metric system ('System International' unit ) or both in metric and imperial system
- (ii) For solid foods by weight, for liquid foods by volume. For semi-solid or viscous foods, either by weight or volume.

**d.) Name and address of the manufacturer or packer or distributor**

- (i) The name and address of the manufacturer, or packer or distributor or owner of rights of manufacture or brand owner in the case of food of local origin
- (ii) For imported food, the name and address of local importer and/or distributor and the country of origin.
- (iii) When a food undergoes processing in a second country which changes its nature, the country in which the processing is performed shall be considered to be the country of origin for the purposes of labelling.

**(e) Date marking and storage instruction**

- (i) Whenever required, the expiry date and the date of minimum durability and the manufacturing date of the food should be stated in clear terms: Day/month/year shall be declared in uncoded numerical sequence except that the month may be indicated by letters that use will not confuse the consumer [Codex Stan 1-1985 (Rev. 1-1991), 1999].

(ii) The storage instruction for food that is dependent on its storage or any special storage conditions or condition of use,

**(f) Number marking of Food and Drug Registration**

Food Products Shall be registered by marking the registered Number of FDD that issued by Food and Drug Department and have a valid self live.

**(g) Instruction for use**

The instructions for use, including reconstitution, where applicable, when it would be impossible to make appropriate use of the food in the absence of such instruction.

5.2 The language using in the label of food locally food production should be in Lao language or both in Lao language and English language. For imported food, it should be in Lao language or English language; or the language of original country and English language.

5.3 The name of the food net content and date marking of the food should appear in a prominent position.

5.4 The particulars referred to in Paragraph 5.1 should be easily legible, clearly comprehensible and indelible

5.5 Food intended for export should have the particulars listed in Paragraph 4.1 in Lao and English language or following the agreement of the importers country.

**Article 6: Optional labelling**

6.1 Specific labelling may be required based on local needs taking into account religious and dietary practices:

- (i) For food containing edible fat or edible oil or both, the common name of the animal or vegetable of the edible fat or edible oil or both must be declared
- (ii) A statement on the label that indicates the presence of ingredients or food additives from animal origin such as bovine, porcine, canine and their derivatives.
- (iii) A statement on the label that contains added alcohol.
- (iv) Claim, symbol or recognized logo on *religious* or ritual preparation such as *halal* or *kosher* may be used.

6.2 Specific labelling and claims on nutrition based on local needs may be required;

- (i) The declaration of energy, protein, fat and carbohydrate, where appropriate
- (ii) Information on energy value should be expressed in kcal per 100g or per 100ml or per package if the package contains only a single portion or per serving as quantified on the label or per portion provided that the number of portions contained in the package is stated
- (iii) Information on the amounts of protein, carbohydrate and fat in the food should be expressed in g per 100g or per 100ml or per package if the package contains only a single portion or per serving as quantified on the label or per portion provided that the number of portions contained in the package is stated.
- (iv) Numerical information on vitamin and mineral should be expressed in metric units and /or as a percentage of the Nutrient Reference Value per 100g or per 100ml or per package if the package contains only a single portion or per serving as quantified on the label or per portion provided that the number of portions contained in the package is stated.
- (v) The declaration of nutrient content should be numerical

- (vi) Where a claim is made, the amount of that nutrient per 100g or per 100ml expressed in metric unit, and/or per serving should be declared.
  - (vii) Nutrient declaration should be mandatory for foods for which nutrition claims are made.
  - (viii) Nutrient content claim, nutrient comparative claim and nutrient function claim may be allowed provided they meet with the minimum criteria set by Codex Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims where applicable.
- 6.3 Claim, symbol or logo to indicate grading, quality or superiority such as 'organic' that conform to those relevant authority and recognized by national authority may be used on the label.

### **Group III Prohibited claims**

#### **Article 7: Prohibited claims**

The following claims should be prohibited:

- (i). Claims as to the suitability of a food for use in the prevention, alleviation, treatment or cure of a disease, disorder or other physiological condition.
- (ii) Claims stating that any given food will provide an adequate source of all essential nutrients.
- (iii) Claims implying that a balanced diet or ordinary foods cannot supply adequate amount of all nutrients
- (iv) Claims which could give rise to doubt about the safety of similar food or which could arouse or exploit fear in the consumer.
- (v) Claims which highlight the absence or addition of any food additive or nutrient supplement, if the addition of such food additive or nutrient supplement is not permitted or prohibited.



- (vi) Claims on the absence of beef or pork or its derivatives or lard are prohibited if the food does not contain such ingredient.
- (vii) Claims that a product is superior to any other existing product of the same kind that cannot be substantiated.

## **Group IV**

### **Rewards and sanctions**

#### **Article 8 Rewards**

Individuals, juristic persons or organizations having good deeds in implementing this regulation shall be rewarded and appropriately privileged according to the Ministry of Health requirements.

#### **Article 9 Measure towards violators**

Individuals or organizations that violate this regulation shall be educated, warned, fined and punished according to the gravity of the violation as below:

- First violation: Educate, warn and record in the file.
- Second violation: No consideration for registration of these food products and food supplement. If find, these food will be seized and fine according to the food price.
- Third violation: Request to the related agencies for prohibiting to produce, import and distribute these products.

Any violation of the first, second and third violation, if it affects seriously to health, economic or to the life of consumer shall be punished accordingly to the law.

**Group V**  
**Final Provisions**

**Article 10 Implementation**

The Food and Drug Department shall be responsible for the implementation and collaborate with other concerned sectors to perform effectively this regulation.

**Article 11 Effectiveness**

This regulation is effective from the date that is signed by the Minister of Health, Decree any regulations and rules are contradicted with this regulation will be repealed.

**Minister of Ministry of Health**

**Dr. Phonemek DALALOY**