



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 11/20/2000

GAIN Report #BB0003

## **Barbados**

# **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards**

# **Mandatory Labeling Requirement for Imported Prepackaged Food Products 2000**

Approved by:

**Margie Bauer**

**Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office**

Prepared by:

Jennifer Rousseau

---

### **Report Highlights:**

**U.S. food products destined for Barbados must now add “Best Before” dates to product labels to comply with the mandatory labeling now being enforced by the Barbados Government. “Non-conforming goods” will be refused entry.**

---

Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Miami[C11], BB

U. S. food products destined for Barbados must now add “Best Before” dates to product labels. In August 2000, the Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development in Barbados announced that it would begin officially enforcing the mandatory labeling requirement for imported prepackaged goods established in 1994. A press release stated that as a result of a recent spate of “infractions of the mandatory labeling standards by persons importing goods for sale in Barbados,” “non-conforming goods” would be refused entry.

In 1994 the Barbados National Standards Institute (BNSI) issued the Barbados National Standard Specification for the Labeling of Prepackaged Goods (BNS 5: PART 2: 1994). The standard states that “it is obligatory and thus no person shall label prepackaged food contrary to it.” The standard further states that “no person shall sell, import or advertise any prepackaged food unless the product has applied to it a label conforming to the standard.”

Since the implementation of BNS 5: PART 2: 1994, the Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development has granted waivers to local importers with respect to "Best Before Date" labeling of prepackaged goods imported into Barbados. The Ministry stated that it will no longer be granting waivers. It issued a stern warning that it will rigorously monitor these standards and that non-conforming goods will be refused entry into Barbados. Local importers have been urged to contact their overseas manufacturers advising them of the "Best Before Date" labeling requirement and requesting that they comply with the standard. The Ministry is expected to announce a deadline for the mandatory implementation of the standard.

U.S. companies that currently export prepackaged goods to Barbados are urged to become compliant to the labeling standard for prepackaged goods to ensure that their product can continue to enter the Barbadian market. Contact your local importer or:

THE BARBADOS NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE  
CULLODEN ROAD  
ST. MICHAEL  
BARBADOS  
TEL.: 246-426-3870  
FAX: 246-436-1495