

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Canada Further Extends Labeling and Packaging Flexibility

Country: Canada

Post: Ottawa

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products, Potatoes and Potato Products, Dairy and Products

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Report Highlights:

On September 4, 2020 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced temporary flexibility in enforcing some Canadian labeling and packaging regulations for pre-packaged meat products. CFIA announced this temporary flexibility, in response to industry challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, will now be extended to December 31, 2020 for both foodservice packaged products and pre-packaged meat products. Label requirements associated with food safety are mandatory and businesses must continue to ensure that traceability documentation is maintained.

Labeling and packaging flexibility for prepackaged meat products was originally announced on June 15, 2020 by CFIA. Labeling and packaging flexibility pertains to non-food safety elements and were previously summarized in [GAIN report CA2020-006](#). The December 31, 2020 exemption is also applicable for Canadian foodservice products.

On April 6, 2020, CFIA [announced](#) temporary labeling flexibilities for certain foodservice products. This flexibility is applicable only to foodservice products made, packaged, and labeled in Canada and which were labeled for foodservice in either Canada or the United States. This flexibility was implemented in order to facilitate re-distribution of certain products from foodservice to retail in response to the disruptions experienced in foodservice as a result of COVID-19 public health restrictions on foodservice businesses. Enabling these products to divert to retail also helped to alleviate shortages in the retail environment due to increased consumer demand. This flexibility is related to non-food safety measures and all food safety requirements and applicable regulatory requirements under Safe Food for Canadians Regulations must still be met.

Attachments:

No Attachments.