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Prepared By: FAS China Staff

Approved By: Adam Branson

Report Highlights:

On March 27, 2025, China's National Health Commission (NHC) and the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) jointly released the General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (GB 7718-2025). This standard is a mandatory national food safety standard that provides basic requirements for the labeling of domestic and imported prepackaged foods of all categories. China has announced a two-year transition period for the enforcement of the standard. The standard will enter into force on March 16, 2027. China notified the draft standard to the WTO on July 11, 2024. This report provides analysis of changes affecting imported products and an unofficial translation of the final standard. Stakeholders should conduct their own review of the regulation.

FAS China provides this analysis and reporting as a service to the United States agricultural community, and to our farmers, ranchers, agribusiness operations, and rural communities in support of a worldwide agricultural information system and a level playing field for U.S. agriculture.

On March 27, 2025, China's National Health Commission (NHC) and the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) jointly released the General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (GB 7718-2025), which will replace the current standard of GB7718-2011 implemented since April 2012.

The National Food Safety Standard for the General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods is a mandatory national food safety standard that provides basic requirements for the labeling of domestic and imported prepackaged foods of all categories. China has announced two years transition period for the enforcement of the newly updated standard, which will enter into force on March 16, 2027.

The draft standard has been notified to WTO on July 10, 2024, under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1295/Add.1](#). Please refer to FAS GAIN Report [CH2024-0086](#) for analysis and translation of the notified draft standard.

Compared with the WTO notified draft in July 2024, the major changes include:

- Under 4.1 General labeling requirements: the required mark of date changed from “date of manufacture and shelf life” to “date of manufacture and shelf-life expiration date”.
Interpretation: This means it is required to mark the date of manufacture and the end of the shelf-life date instead of the shelf-life period/duration on labels.
- Under 4.7.1 and 8.5 Date mark: changed from “For products with a shelf-life of 1 year or greater, the shelf life and shelf-life expiration date may be marked” to “For products with a shelf life of six months or greater, the shelf life and shelf-life expiration date may be marked”.
Interpretation: If the product has a shelf life of six months or longer, the date of manufacture is not required. The product may be labeled with shelf-life period and the shelf-life expiration date. Please see Article 4.7.2 and Article 10 for more exempted conditions and Appendix A.2 for detailed marking requirements.

Compared with the previously published standard GB7718-2011, which was published in April 2011, and entered into force in April of 2012. The major changes include:

- Changed of definitions of prepared foods under Article 2.1;
- Specified requirements on products with strains and fermentation bacteria or microbial starter cultures, and how to label those substances under Article 4.3.6;
- Changed the mandatory information for the mark of date under Article 4.7 and 8.5;
- Included exemption conditions for shelf life, date of manufacture, or other contents under Article 4.7, 8.5, and 10;

- Recommend manufacturers to include the last possible consumption date (the date after shelf-life period but still safe to consume) based on indicated storage conditions to reduce food waste under Article 4.7.3;
- Included a new appendix to regulate on formats of how to mark allergen information which has been changed from recommended information to a mandatory marking requirement (please see Article 4.12 and Appendix D);
- Included a separate section on requirements for imported products under Article 8;
- Included a new term for digital labeling under Article 9;
- Revised requirements for the mark of dates to the sequence of year, month, and date under Appendix A;
- For ingredient emphasis, words such as “not adding”, “not used”, and their synonyms should not be used (please see Article 4.4 and Appendix A.5).

Along with this updated national food safety standard, SAMR also released the [Food Labeling Supervision and Management Measures](#) (link in Chinese), which will enter into force on the same day on March 16, 2027. These measures will focus more on appearance requirements such as font, color, and size of the characters, pictures, claims, and symbols used on labels and the penalties enforced by authorities with in-compliance actions, and requirements for online food sales. These two regulations together are providing specified rules on both safety and market enforcement aspects for domestic and imported prepackaged foods.

On the same day, NHC and SAMR also released the National Food Safety Standard for General Principles of Nutrition Labeling for Prepackaged Foods ([GB 28050-2025](#)) (link in Chinese), the nutrition information is also an important part of labels which regulate nutrition facts and claims for labeling requirements in China. For updates on China’s food and agriculture standards and regulations, please refer to the [FAS GAIN System](#).

This report contains unofficial translation of the National Food Safety Standard of General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (GB7718-2025), **some major changes, for example additions or deletions to the previous text, are highlighted in blue**. Stakeholders should conduct their own review of the regulation. The original version in Chinese is attached.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

National Food Safety Standard General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods Preface

This standard replaces the *National Food Safety Standard General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods* (GB 7718-2011).

Compared with GB 7718-2011, main changes of this standard are as follows:

- Extends the scope of application to foods that are prepackaged or prepared in packaging materials and containers and sold in measured quantities;

- Revises definitions of ingredients, date of manufacture, shelf life, and configurations, adds definition of digital labeling, and deletes the definition of the principal display side;
- Modifies the basic requirements for food labeling;
- Makes further clarification of the declaration methods for food names and dates;
- Modifies the declaration requirements for list of ingredients, makes clarification of the declaration methods for food additives, modifies the declaration requirements for the class names of ingredients, and modifies the requirements for quantitative declaration;
- Modifies the declaration requirements for information of manufacturer and operator, net content and configurations, production license number, product quality grade;
- Modifies the declaration requirements for foods that contains allergens;
- Adds requirements for food claims;
- Adds the declaration requirements for imported foods;
- Adds the digital labeling requirements;
- Moves part of the texts in the standard to the appendix and adjusts the order of chapters;
- Adds the new Appendix A “Requirements for the Formats of Some Labeling Items”; merges the former Appendix C into the new Appendix A; changes the former Appendix A “Methods for Calculating the Maximum Surface Area of the Package or Container of Prepackaged Foods” to Appendix C, which clarifies the calculation methods for the largest surface area of packages in irregular shapes; adds the Appendix D “Methods for Declaring Allergens in Food Labels.”

National Food Safety Standard
General Principles for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods

1. Scope

This standard applies to the labeling of prepackaged foods to be offered directly or indirectly as such to consumers.

This standard does not apply to the labeling of packages that provide protection to prepackaged foods during storage and transportation, nor does it apply to the labeling of foods in bulk, and foods that are made and sold on the same spot.

2. Terms and Definitions

2.1 Prepackaged foods

Foods packaged or made up in a package or a container, including foods packaged in advance with a pre-determined quantity, and foods made with a pre-determined quantity in a package and container that have unified weight, volume, and length within certain ranges; also include foods packaged or made in advance in a package and a container that are sold in measured quantity.

2.2 Food labels

Any characters, graphics, symbols, or descriptive matters shown on food packaging.

2.3 Digital labels

Food labels displayed on food packaging using information technology such as QR codes.

2.4 Ingredients

Any substance used in manufacturing or processing of a food, which presents in the food (including in a modified form), including food additives (including food nutrition fortifiers).

2.5 Date of production (date of manufacture)

The date on which the food becomes the finished product, including packaging and filling date. ~~and it is also the final selling unit date after putting the foods into package (filling into containers).~~

2.6 Shelf life

The period under any stated storage conditions during which the product will retain qualities.
~~during which the quality of the product will be maintained and the product will remain fully marketable and retain any specific qualities for which tacit or express claims have been made.~~

2.7 Configuration

The descriptions of the relationship between net content and the units in the package when the package contains more than one unit of prepackaged food with a pre-determined weight.

Principal Display Panel

~~The panel easier to be found on package or containers of prepackaged foods.~~

3. Basic Requirements

- 3.1 It shall comply with provisions by laws and regulations, and corresponding food safety standards.
- 3.2 It shall be clear, prominent, lasting, and legible to customers in purchase. Food labels shall not be separated from the foods, their packages, and containers.
- 3.3 It shall be easy to understand and science-based; any indications which are unscientific, violating public order and good practice, disparaging other products, and superstitious shall not be declared.
- 3.4 It shall be true and accurate; it shall not use false or exaggerating deceptive words, graphics, or symbols to introduce the foods; it shall not create an erroneous impression by means of different font size, color contrast, or display layout design which mislead consumers to confuse the purchased food or its certain property with any other product.
- 3.5 It shall not be expressed or implied by words, graphics, or symbols that the food, or certain content, or certain ingredient has the function of prevention or treating diseases; foods other than health foods shall not state or imply health functions (effectiveness).
- 3.6 It shall use standard Chinese characters (except for trademarks, [email address](#), and [website](#)); the traditional Chinese characters, Chinese pinyin, characters of the ethnic minorities, and foreign characters could be used at the same time.

~~The foreign letters shall not be larger than the corresponding Chinese characters (except for registered trademarks). When the packaging of a sales unit contains different varieties of prepackaged foods in multiple independent packaging, the content of mandatory labeling of each individually packaged food should be marked separately on the outer packaging of the sales unit, and common information can be marked uniformly. If the independently packaged foods within a sales unit are not sold individually, then they are exempted from marking the corresponding~~

~~contents on the individual packages. Where the mandatory declaration information on the inner package (or container) is legible through the outer wrapper, the same declaration information need not be repeated on the outer wrapper.¹~~

4. Labeling Content of Prepackaged Foods Directly Offered to Consumers

4.1 General provisions

Labels of prepackaged foods domestically produced, processed, and distributed shall contain name of the foods, list of ingredients, [nutrition facts](#)², net content and configuration ([excluding the products sold in measured quantity](#)), name, address, and contact information of manufacturers and/or operators, date of manufacture and shelf-life [expiration date](#), storage conditions, food production licensing number, product standard code, allergen information, and [other contents required by laws, regulations, and national food safety standards, except for contents that are exempted from laws, regulations, and national food safety standards.](#)

4.2 Name of foods

4.2.1 The true attribute name of the foods should be marked in a conspicuous position on the food label. The ~~true~~ attribute names refer to special names that can reflect the inherent characteristics of the food itself that do not need to be explained or have been explained, including descriptions of one or more food-specific characteristics such as food or ingredient characteristics, process characteristics, food categories, etc.

4.2.1.1 Where a name or several names have been established or used for a food by national standards, industry standards, local standards, regulations or public announcements related to the foods naming issued from relevant departments of the State Council, one of these names, or the name presenting the same meaning or with the same nature can be selected as the attribute name.

4.2.1.2 Where the national standards, industry standards, local standards, regulations or public announcements of relevant departments of the State Council did not establish or use a name presenting the same meaning or with the same nature for a food product, the name which can fully describe the true attributes of the food and is not misleading or confusing to the consumers could be used as the attribute name.

4.2.2 The “coined”, “fanciful”, “transliterated”, “dialect”, or “trademark” name of the food can be marked on the same display side of the attribute name at the same time. When such name

¹ Requirements for the size of the characters, symbols, and digits, as well as the separate sales units and individually packaged foods moved to Food Labeling Supervision and Management Measures SAMR released.

² Requirements for nutrition labeling for prepackaged food are included in the newly published National Food Safety Standard General Principles of Nutrition Labeling for Prepackaged Foods (GB 28050-2025). Please refer to upcoming FAS GAIN Report for further explanation.

contains characters or words that may mislead or confuse consumers about the food attribute, such characters or words shall be marked in font not taller than the attribute name, and in the same font style and color of the attribute name at the same display side near to the attribute name.

~~There shall appear on the label either before or after the name of the food, such additional words or phrases as necessary to avoid misleading or confusing the consumer in regard to the true nature, physical condition of the food, or method of preparation of the food; for example dried, concentrated, reconstituted, smoked, fried, powdery, granular.~~

4.3 List of ingredients

4.3.1 A list of ingredients shall be declared on the label of prepackaged foods (including single-ingredient foods), the ingredient list should be marked with guiding words. In the list of ingredients, names of ingredients shall be declared according to 4.2 of this Standard and names of food additives should be declared following provisions in 4.3.4 of this Standard. ~~The ingredients listed in Appendix A.4 can either be declared in their attribute names in their specific names or be declared by their class names in Table A.1, unless existing national standards, industry standards, or local standards have different provisions.~~

4.3.2 All ingredients shall be listed in descending order of ingoing volume (in terms of weight) at the time of the manufacturing or processing of the food; those ingredients with ingoing volume of less than 2% are not required to be listed in descending order. ~~Ingredients volatilized or removed during processing do not need to be declared in the list of ingredients.~~

4.3.3 Where an ingredient added directly to food is the compound ingredients made of two or more ingredients or raw materials (excluding blended food additives), name of the compound ingredients shall be declared in the list of ingredients, which is immediately accompanied by a list in brackets, of its original ingredients according to requirements of 4.3.2 of this Standard. Where national, industry, or local standard exists for a compound ingredient, and the ingoing volume of the compound ingredient constitutes less than 25% of the food weight, the original ingredients of the compound ingredient do not need to be declared. ~~Compound ingredients added to compound ingredients do not need to be expanded to indicate their original ingredients.~~

4.3.4 Food additives shall be declared using their common names provided in the GB 2760³, GB 14880⁴, public announcements from health administrative departments of the State Council, or national food safety standards. The names of food additives do not include their manufacturing methods, otherwise stipulated in national food safety standards or announcements issued by the

³ [National Food Safety Standard for Uses of Food Additives.](#)

⁴ [National Food Safety Standard Regarding Nutritional Fortification Substances in Foods.](#)

administrative department of the State Council. Where ingredients can be used as food additives and nutritional fortification substances and as other ingredients, they should be declared according to their functions in the final products.

4.3.4.1 Compound food additives should be listed with all food additives that play a role in the final product. Processing aids and deactivated enzyme preparations need not be declared. Food additives contained in compound ingredients that already have national standards, industry standards, or local standards, and whose addition amount is less than 25% of the total food content, if they comply with the carry-over principles stipulated in GB 2760 that can be carried to foods through food ingredients (including food additives), need not be declared. Auxiliary materials of food additive that do not play a functional role in the final product do not need to be labeled. If national food safety standards provide otherwise, those regulations should be followed.

4.3.4.2 Food additives can be declared directly with their common names, or their common names can be classified and labeled with function class names of the additives, see Appendix B for the labeling form. On the label of the same prepackaged foods, only one form of labeling in Appendix B should be selected.

4.3.4.3 Where the common name and the function class name of a food additive are both declared, when the largest surface area of the package or container is not more than 60 cm² (method for calculating the largest surface area is provided in Appendix C of this Standard), the international numbering system (INS Number) of the food additives listed in GB 2760 could be used to substitute the common names of the food additives. Meanwhile, if a food additive does not have an international numbering code in GB 2760, or declaration of allergens requires, the common name of the food additive could be declared.

4.3.5 For a substance made of food, which has some packaging functions and could be ate, the substance shall also be declared in the list of ingredients, unless existing national standard, industry standard, local standard, or other laws and regulations have different provisions.

4.3.6 With regard to strains that are added directly during manufacturing process, not inactivated or removed, the specific names of the added strains shall be declared; the corresponding strain number code and content could be declared at the same time. If the above-mentioned strains that are added play a fermentative role, they can also be classified as fermentation strains or microbial starter cultures. If the above-mentioned strains that are inactivated or removed by filtration in the manufacturing process, they need not be declared; if declared, the sterilization process of the product should be clearly stated near the food attribute name or ingredient list, or labels such as “inactivated”, “non-viable bacteria type”, or “sterilized type” which can fully

explain that the bacteria are no longer activated should be used. If there are other provisions in laws, regulations, and national food safety standards, those provisions shall prevail.

4.4 Ingredient emphasis and quantitative ingredient declaration

4.4.1 Where the label of a food emphasizes the adding or containing of one or more ingredients or components, such ingredient(s) or compound(s) shall be clearly declared in the list of ingredients or use descriptions to declare the ingoing volume or content of the ingredient and compound in the finished product (please refer to Appendix A.5 for the declaration formats).

4.4.1.1 If ingredients or components of food are mentioned in the food name, the amount of the relevant ingredients or ingredients added or the content in the finished product should be indicated.

4.4.1.2 Patterns on food labels used to describe taste, flavor, source of ingredients, consumption methods, or uses are not subject to special emphasis. If only food essences and spices are used to prepare certain ingredients or food flavors, only patterns other than real photos of relevant ingredients or foods can be used and should be marked with “Patterns are for taste reference only.”

4.4.2 Where the label of a food places special emphasis on the low or zero content of one or more ingredients or components, the content of the emphasized ingredient or component in the finished product shall be declared.

4.4.2.1 Where words such as “free” and “does not contain” are used, the content of the corresponding ingredients or components shall be declared as “0”; where other laws and regulations, national standards, local standards, or industry standards provide otherwise, those provisions shall prevail. Food additives, contaminants, and substances prohibited to be added by laws, regulations, and standards, or substances that should not exist in foods, shall not be declared with words such as “free”, “does not contain”, and their synonyms. For synonyms to content claims, refer to Appendix A.5.

4.4.2.2 It is not allowed to use words such as “not adding”, “not used”, and their synonyms; where other laws, regulations, or national food safety standards have different provisions, those provisions shall prevail. For synonyms of “not adding”, refer to Appendix A.5.

4.5 Net content and configuration

The net content shall be declared on the same displaying side where the food name locates on the package or container.

~~The net weight declaration shall be expressed using net weight, numerals and the official unit of measurement. (Refer to appendix C for declared form)~~

~~The net weight of the packaged food shall be declared in accordance with the official unit of measurement, in the following manner:~~

- ~~a) For liquid foods, by volume (L) (l), ml (ml) (ml), or use quality (g), kg (kg);~~
- ~~b) For solid foods, by weight (g), kg;~~
- ~~c) For semi-solid or viscous foods, or use quality (g), kg (kg) or volume (L) (l), ml (ml)(ml).~~

~~The unit of measurement for net weight shall be declared in accordance with Table 2.~~

Table 2

| Measurement method | Range of net weight Q | Unit of measurement |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Volume | $Q < 1000 \text{ ml}$ | ml (ml) |
| | $Q \geq 1000 \text{ ml}$ | L (l) |
| Weight | $Q < 1000 \text{ g}$ | g |
| | $Q \geq 1000 \text{ g}$ | kg |

~~The minimum font size of net weight declaration shall be in accordance with Table 3.~~

Table 3

| Range of net weight Q | Minimum height of font / mm |
|--|-----------------------------|
| $Q \leq 50 \text{ ml}; Q \leq 50 \text{ g}$ | 2 |
| $50 \text{ ml} < Q \leq 200 \text{ ml}; 50 \text{ g} < Q \leq 200 \text{ g}$ | 3 |
| $200 \text{ ml} < Q \leq 1 \text{ L}; 200 \text{ g} < Q \leq 1 \text{ kg}$ | 4 |
| $Q > 1 \text{ kg}; Q > 1 \text{ L}$ | 6 |

~~The net weight and the name of the food shall be presented in the same display panel of the package (container).~~

~~In the case of a solid food packed in a liquid medium, the solid food is the main ingredient, in addition to the declaration of net contents, the drained (solid) contents shall also be declared, in weight or percentage. (Refer to appendix C for declared form)~~

~~For prepackaged food containing small units of prepackaged food, in addition to the declaration of net weight, the configuration shall also be declared on the outer package.~~

~~The declaration of configuration consists of net weight of the prepackaged food and the number of inner individual food units, or only the number of inner individual food units, the word “configuration” may not be declared. For prepackaged food with no inner packs, the configuration means net weight (Refer to appendix C for declared form)⁵~~

⁵ Requirements on configuration, net weight, and below producer’s contact information have been moved to [SAMR’s Food Labeling Supervision and Management Measures](#).

4.6 Name, address, and contact information of producer and operator

The names, addresses and contact information of producers and operators should be indicated in accordance with laws, regulations, and the requirements of the food safety supervision and administration department of the State Council.

~~Name, address, and contact information of the manufacturer shall be declared. The name and address of the manufacturer shall be the name and address of the manufacturer that is legally registered, who is to be held responsible for product safety and quality.~~

~~For a group company and its subsidiary that could both bear independent statutory responsibilities, names and addresses of both organizations shall be declared respectively.~~

~~For branch company of a group company or a production base of a group company that cannot bear independent statutory responsibilities, name and address of the group company shall be declared at the same time.~~

~~If the prepackaged food is produced by a contracted entity, name and address of the contracting entity and the contracted entity shall both be declared at the same time.~~

~~For producer or operator that could independently bear statutory responsibilities, one of the following types of information shall be declared: telephone number, fax number, e-mail, website address, etc.~~

~~For imported prepackaged food, the country or region of origin, and the name, address and contact information of the agent, importer, or distributor registered in China, shall be declared. The declaration of name, address and contact information of the manufacturer may not be declared.~~

4.7 Date marking

4.7.1 The date of manufacture and the shelf-life ~~expiration date~~ shall be marked ~~clearly in the sequence of year, month, and date~~, please refer to Appendix A.2 for the formats. Where the date is marked as “see xxx (location) of the packaging”, the specific location on the package shall be clearly indicated. ~~If the shelf life is six months or more, it may be marked with the shelf-life period and shelf-life expiration date.~~ The date marking should be clear, eye-catching, and easy to identify, and shall not be separated from the package and container; it shall not be pasted, re-printed, or altered.

4.7.2 When the maximum surface area of the packaging or packaging container is not more than 20 cm², may be marked with the shelf-life period and shelf-life expiration date.

4.7.3 To guide consumers to eat the foods reasonably after purchasing and avoid food waste, consumer storage period can be marked according to the characteristics and process of the foods, as the last consumption date of the foods under the specified storage conditions. Please see Appendix A.2 for the marking format.

~~For individually wrapped and prepackaged food units with date of minimum durability and freshness date declared contained in the same large prepackage, the date of minimum durability declared on the large prepackage shall be calculated by the earliest date of minimum durability of the individually wrapped and prepackaged food unit; the date of manufacture declared on the large prepackage shall be calculated by the earliest date of manufacture of the individually wrapped and prepackaged food unit or the date of the large prepackage made into selling unit; or the date of manufacture and the date of minimum durability of the individually wrapped and prepackaged food units shall be declared separately on the large prepackage.~~

4.8 Storage conditions

Prepackaged foods shall declare the storage conditions, please refer to Appendix A.3 for declaration formats.

4.9 Food production licensing number

For those prepackaged foods that are required to declare food production licensing number, declaration format shall follow relevant provisions.

4.10 Product standard code

Prepackaged foods produced and distributed in China shall declare the product standard code and the standard sequence number.

4.11 Quality grade of product

If the implemented product standard has clear provisions for the product quality grade, the quality grade shall be declared, otherwise, the quality grade shall not be marked.

4.12 Declaration of allergens

4.12.1 The following food ingredients may cause allergy to some people; if such ingredients are used, they shall be declared in the list of ingredients, or warning contents shall be declared close

to the list of ingredients on the labels, please see Appendix D for detailed formatting information.

- a. Cereals and products containing gluten (such as wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelt wheat, or their hybrid products);
- b. Crustaceans and products (such as shrimps, lobsters, crabs);
- c. Fish and products;
- d. Eggs and products;
- e. Peanuts and products;
- f. Soybeans and products;
- g. Dairy and dairy products (including lactose);
- h. Nuts and products;

Other possible allergenic substances other than the above-mentioned ingredients can be voluntarily labeled with warning information.

4.12.2 If allergens may be carried over during production or processing, for example, through shared manufacturing workshop or production line, it is encouraged the warning message of allergens be declared, please refer to Appendix D for the declaration format.

4.12.3 The ingredients listed in Appendix D.4 and situations listed in Appendix D.5 are exempted from declaring allergens.

4.13 Nutrition labels

Scopes and formats for nutrition labels shall follow provisions in GB 28050⁶ and GB 13432⁷.
~~Special dietary food and principal and supplementary foods for infant and young children shall declare their nutrient components and contents, and declared form is performed according to GB 13432.~~

4.14 Warnings

If laws, regulations, food safety standards, and announcements issued by relevant departments of the State Council have requirements for the labeling of warnings on foods, food ingredients, or components, they should be displayed in accordance with relevant provisions.

⁶ [National Food Safety Standard for Nutrition Labeling of Prepackaged Foods](#) (link in Chinese)

⁷ [National Food Safety Standard for the Labeling of Pre-packaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses](#) (link in Chinese)

4.15 Irradiation processed foods

4.15.1 For foods that are treated with ionizing radiation, the statement “irradiation processed foods” or “irradiated treatment” shall be declared close to the name of the foods. If the national food safety standards provide otherwise, those provisions shall prevail.

4.15.2 For food ingredients which have been treated with ionizing radiation or ionizing energy shall be marked with “irradiation” or “irradiation processed” in brackets in the ingredients list, or “irradiated processed” shall be marked close to the ingredients list. If the national food safety standards provide otherwise, those provisions shall prevail.

~~Genetically Modified Foods~~

~~Labeling of genetically modified foods shall comply with provisions in relevant laws and regulations.~~

5. Label Information of Prepackaged Foods that are not Directly Offered to Consumers

For prepackaged foods that are not directly offered to consumers, they shall declare the name, net content and configuration (~~excluding those sold by measurement~~), date of manufacture, ~~shelf-life expiration date~~, and storage conditions of the foods, as required by corresponding requirements in Article 4 of this Standard. Other information that are not declared on the label shall be provided in the digital labels, or through the instructions or contracts.

6. Special Foods

If the relevant departments of the State Council have other regulations on special foods labeling, such regulations shall prevail.

7. Food Claims

Food claims should truly and accurately describe the characteristics, properties, and specialty of the foods, food ingredients, or components. If there are clear provisions in the laws, regulations, food safety standards, and rules and announcements issued by relevant departments of the State Council, those provisions shall prevail.

8. Imported Foods

8.1 General requirements

8.1.1 All visible declared content in the label of imported prepackaged foods (including content marked in foreign languages or traditional Chinese characters, content in Chinese labels, and other explanatory materials) shall comply with provisions of Chinese laws, regulations, and food safety standards.

8.1.2 The label of the imported prepackaged foods shall be accompanied with a printed or a pasted label in Chinese. The Chinese label of imported prepackaged foods shall contain the mandatory declaration items required by this Standard, relevant laws, regulations, and food safety standards. There should be a one-to-one correspondence between the Chinese and foreign languages of the mandatory label content. The content expressed in visible foreign languages or traditional Chinese characters in the label shall be correspondent with the standard Chinese characters (except for trademark, name and address of overseas manufacturer, name and address of foreign operator, and their websites).

8.1.3 Declared content in labels of imported prepackaged foods shall comply with requirements of corresponding provisions in Article 4 (with exception of 4.9 and 4.10) and Article 5 of this Standard.

8.1.4 Imported prepackaged food labels that are not directly provided to consumers should be labeled in accordance with the corresponding requirements in Article 5 of this Standard.

8.2 List of ingredients

The content of the list of ingredients of imported prepackaged foods in foreign language shall have corresponding contents in the list of ingredients in Chinese; the ingredients that are not declared in the original list of ingredients in foreign languages but are required to be declared by Chinese laws, regulations, and standards shall also be declared in the list of ingredients in Chinese.

8.3 Name, address, and contact information of manufacturers and operators

Imported prepackaged foods must declare the name, address, and contact information of its importer or agent, and the China's registration number or the registration number issued by authorities of the foreign countries for the overseas manufacturers.

8.4 Country (region) of origin

The imported prepackaged foods shall declare the country (region) of origin. If a product is completely obtained in one country (region), the country (region) is the country (region) of origin of the product. When foods undergo processing in two or more countries (regions), the country (region) where the nature of the foods changes complete shall be considered as the country (region) of origin. If the country or region of filling or subpackaging is different from the country of origin, the country or region of filling or subpackaging should be marked at the same time. The source or the producing country (region) of its raw materials or ingredients may be declared at the same time.

8.5 Date marking

For imported prepackaged foods without date of manufacture on its original packaging, the date of manufacture shall be calculated and marked based on the shelf life, the best before date, and other relevant information labeled on the original packaging. If the shelf life is six months or more, shelf life and shelf-life expiration date may be marked.

8.6 Intended consumer group, serving size, or instructions for use

Where the original label of an imported prepackaged food involves the intended consumer group, serving size, or instructions for use, such information should have corresponding Chinese, and shall comply with requirements by relevant national food safety standards and announcements issued by the relevant departments of the State Council.

8.7 Others

Imported prepackaged foods need not declare food production licensing number and product standard code.

~~Recommended Declaration Content~~

~~The prepackaged foods may mark the batch number of the products according to needs.~~

~~Labels of prepackaged foods can indicate instructions helpful for consumers for eating or cooking, for example how to open the container, how to eat or use, how to cook or heat, how to thaw or warm the foods, storage methods and expiration period after thawing or warming, rehydration methods, consumption period after opening, storage methods after opening, and food matching styles or methods.~~

9. Digital Label Requirements

9.1 Food manufacturers are encouraged to display food information through digital labels on the premise that labeling of prepackaged foods comply with the requirements of this Standard.

9.2 The content displayed in the digital labels should comply with the provisions of laws, regulations, and national food safety standards, and should be consistent with the information displayed in labels on food packaging.

9.3 When using digital labels, digitalization methods shall comply with national standards, and they should be indicated with “digital label” or similar words near the image of the digital labels.

9.4 Digital labels should be provided in an easily accessible form to encourage compatibility with multiple identification methods. The content of the digital label should be displayed directly on the first level page after showing of content and should not contain any interfering elements to affect reading.

9.5 The content of digital labels should be clear, eye-catching, easy to read, and should not be tempered. Food manufacturers can provide digital labels based on the needs of specific consumer groups, for example, food information can be provided through video, voice recognition, and other methods besides texts.

9.6 The use of digital labels indicates matters that should be marked on prepackaged foods, and the label information that can be simplified on prepackaged food packages in accordance with relevant regulations.

9.7 If there are clear provisions from laws, regulations, food safety standards, and relevant departments of the State Council, they should be followed.

10. Content that are Exempted from Declaration

10.1 On the premise that the date of manufacture is marked, the following prepackaged foods are exempted from declaring shelf life and shelf-life expiration date: wine and liquors with alcohol content of 10% or more; vinegar; food grade salt; solid sugars; and monosodium glutamate. If the national food safety standards have other provisions, those provisions shall prevail.

10.2 On the premise that the batch number is marked, wine and liquors with alcohol content of 10% or more do not need to mark the date of manufacture.

10.3 When the maximum surface area of the package or container of prepackaged foods is not more than 20 cm², only food name, net content, shelf life expiration date, shelf life, storage

conditions, name and contact information for manufactures and (or) operators, production licensing number, and code and serial number of the implemented product standard are mandatory items, other labeling items can be marked on the sales container, or provided in the form of accompanying instructions, digital labels, etc. See Appendix C for the calculation method of the maximum surface areas.

Appendix A

Formats of Some Labeling Items of Prepackaged Foods

A.1 General Provisions

This appendix uses examples to provide declaration formats of some label items of prepackaged foods. When labeling the corresponding items, one of the examples should be selected for use. If necessary, the recommended form can be adjusted according to the characteristics of food or packaging, etc.

A.2 Marking of Date

A.2.1 The date may be marked as follows:

2010 year (in Chinese) 03 month (in Chinese) 20 day (in Chinese);
2010 03 20;
2010/03/20;
2010.03.20;
2010-03-20;
20100320.

A.2.2 The date of manufacture and shelf-life expiration date can be marked on the same line:

20100320/20100520;
20100320; 20100520;
20100320 20100520.

A.2.3 The shelf-life expiration date may be also marked as follows:

Shelf-life date (until):
Shelf life till:
Best date before use (until):
Best to eat (drink) before...;
Eat (drink) best before...;

Best before...;
Best before the date ...;
Eat (drink) best before the date ...;

A.2.4 When marking the shelf life, XX months (or XX days, or XX weeks, or XX years) and other methods can be used.

A.2.5 Consumption expiration date can also be marked as follows:

Consumption expiration date ends on (until);
Last consumption date (until);

A.3 Declaration of Storage Conditions

Declaration of storage conditions should be titled using “Storage Conditions”, “Conditions for Storage”, “Storage Methods” in the labels, or no title is indicated.

Storage conditions may be declared as follows:

Stored at room temperature (or frozen, or refrigerated, or avoiding light, or other conditions);

Stored at xx-xx °C;

Avoiding direct sunlight (or other conditions);

Please store in a cool and dry place (or other conditions);

Stored at room temperature, refrigerate after the package is open (or other conditions);

Temperature: \leq xx°C; moisture: \leq xx %.

A.4 Methods for Declaring Class Names of Ingredients

See Table A.1 for declaration of their class names for some ingredients.

Table A.1: Methods for Declaring Class Names of Some Ingredients

| Ingredient Classes | Methods for Declaring Class Names |
|--|--|
| Vegetable oil of different kinds added to non-vegetable oil products, | “Vegetable oil” or “refined vegetable oil”; if it has been hydrogenated, it should declare “hydrogenated” or “partially hydrogenated” |
| Starches of different kinds, not including chemically modified starches | “Starch” |
| Spices and spice extracts not exceeding 2% (either individually or in total) | “Spices”, “spice categories”, or “compound spices” |
| Gum preparations of different kinds in gum-based candies | “Gum base agent”, “gum base” |
| Various preserved fruits with an addition amount not exceeding 10% | “Candied fruit”, “preserved fruit”, |
| Strains that are added, not inactivated, or not removed in the production process (except for those strains that play a non-fermentative role and exist in finished products) | “Fermentative strain”, “microbial starter culture” |
| Food flavoring essence, food flavoring substances | “Food flavoring essence”, “food flavoring substance”, “food flavoring essence and substance”, “food use flavoring essence”, “food flavoring essence”, “food use flavoring substance”, “food use flavoring essence and substance” |
| Soy sauce added during the production process | “Soy sauce” |
| Vinegar added during the production process | “Vinegar” |
| Edible sugar added during the production process | “Edible Sugar” |
| Starch sugars added during the production process | The attribute names of the ingredients that can be directly marked, such as “fructose syrup.” |
| Fermented wine, distilled wine, and edible alcohol used as ingredients, excluding prepared wine. | The attribute names of ingredients that can be directly marked, such as “rice wine” and “edible alcohol.” |

A.5 Quantitative Labeling of Ingredients

A.5.1 For the labeling format for quantitative labeling of prepackaged food ingredients: “≥”, “not less than”, or “no less than” can be used for quantitative labeling to indicate the minimum committed addition amount or content, when emphasizing the low content, “≤”, “not higher than”, or “not greater than” can be used to indicate the added amount promised or maximum content amount.

Indicate the added amount or content in specific numerical form;

Indicate the added amount or content in percentage form;

Indicate the added amount or content with additional instructions;

When the production and processing technology may cause fluctuations in the added amount or content, the added amount or content can be marked in the form of a variation interval.

A.5.2 If the ingredients that need to be quantitatively labeled fall within the scope of the nutrition labels, they should be implemented in accordance with the relevant standards. Otherwise, they should be labeled with added amount or content outside the nutrition labels.

A.5.3 The synonyms of content claims

The synonyms equivalent to “not containing” and “none”: “zero (0)”, “no”, “0%”, “not contain”, “zero (0) content”, “contains 0 amount”, and other terms that are essentially the same as the above.

The synonyms equivalent to “not added” and “not used”: “no addition”, “zero added”, “no added”, “not used”, “no adding”, “not use”, “not in use”, “never used”, and other terms that are essentially the same as the above.

A.5.4 Exemptions from quantitative labeling

An ingredient or a component mentioned in the label of a food, which does not constitute special emphasis if one of the following conditions are met, thus it is exempted to declare the ingredient or the component’s ingoing volume or content. Where national standards, industry standards, local standards, and other laws and regulations implemented for the product have different provisions, those provisions shall prevail.

- a. The ingredient or component mentioned in the warning of allergens or other warnings or reminding words;
- b. The ingredient or component mentioned only in the instructions for use or product mix recommendations;
- c. When there is a description of the origin of the ingredients and the ingredients all come from the same origin;
- d. The ingredient or component is mentioned only to describe sensory characteristics of the finished product, such as production techniques, forms, flavor, and taste; or names only used to describe productions functions;

- e. The ingredients or components involved in the food names (or essentially the same names) that have been stipulated in national standards, industry standards, local standards, and the announcement issued by the relevant departments of the State Council, or ingredients or components whose adding amount or content in the finished product have been stipulated.

A.6 Recommended Declaration Content

6.1 The prepackaged foods may mark the batch number of the products according to needs.

6.2 Labels of prepackaged foods can indicate instructions helpful for consumers for eating or cooking, for example how to open the container, how to eat or use, how to cook or heat, how to thaw or warm the foods, storage methods and expiration period after thawing or warming, rehydration methods, consumption period after opening, storage methods after opening, and food matching styles or methods.

Appendix B

Declaration Formats of Food Additives in the List of Ingredients

B.1 General Provisions

This appendix provides examples of labeling forms for food additives in ingredient lists. When marking the corresponding items, one of them should be selected for marking according to the requirements of 4.3.4 in this Standard.

B.2 Declare all common names of food additives in descending order of the ingoing volumes

Ingredients: water, whole milk powder, chocolate (cocoa liquor, sugar, cocoa butter, phospholipid, PGPR, food flavoring essence, lemon yellow), cream, vegetable oil, glucose syrup, propylene glycol ester of fatty acid, carrageenan, guar gum, annatto, maltodextrin, and food flavoring substance.

B.3 Declare all function class names and common names of food additives in descending order of the ingoing volumes

Ingredients: water, whole milk powder, chocolate [cocoa liquor, sugar, cocoa butter, emulsifier (phospholipid and PGPR), food flavoring essence, colorant (lemon yellow)], cream, vegetable oil, glucose syrup, emulsifier (propylene glycol ester of fatty acid), thickener (carrageenan and guar gum), colorant (annatto), maltodextrin, and food flavoring substance.

B.4 When the maximum surface area of the package or container is not more than 60cm², all function class names and international numbering identifications of food additives in descending order in terms of ingoing volumes can be declared

Ingredients: water, whole milk powder, chocolate (cocoa liquor, sugar, cocoa butter, emulsifier (322,476), cream, vegetable oil, food flavoring essence, colorant (102), glucose syrup, emulsifier (477), thickener (407, 412), colorant (160b), maltodextrin, and food flavoring substance.

B.5 Establish an item for all food additives

B.5.1 General principles

Food additives that are directly added shall be declared in the food additives item. Do not declare under the food additives item if they are used indirectly. Nutritional fortification substances, food flavoring essences and substances, and gum base agents in gum-based candies can be declared outside the food additives item in the list of ingredients.

The position of the food additives item in the list of ingredients is determined by the total (ingoing) volumes of food additives included in this item.

B.5.2 Declare all common names of food additives

Ingredients: water, whole milk powder, chocolate (cocoa liquor, sugar, cocoa butter, phospholipid, PGPR, food flavoring essence, and lemon yellow), cream, vegetable oil, glucose syrup, food additives (propylene glycol ester of fatty acid, carrageenan, guar gum, and annatto), maltodextrin, and food flavoring substance.

B.5.3 Declare all function class names and common names of food additives

Ingredients: water, whole milk powder, chocolate [cocoa liquor, sugar, cocoa butter, emulsifier (phospholipid and PGPR), food flavoring essence, colorant (lemon yellow)], cream, vegetable oil, glucose syrup, food additives [emulsifier (propylene glycol ester of fatty acid), thickener (carrageenan and guar gum), colorant (annatto)], maltodextrin, and food flavoring substance.

B.5.4 When the maximum surface area of the package or container is not more than 60cm², all function class names and international numbering identifications of food additives can be declared

Ingredients: water, whole milk powder, chocolate [cocoa liquor, sugar, cocoa butter, emulsifier (322, 476), food flavoring essence, colorant (102)], cream, vegetable oil, glucose syrup, food

additives [emulsifier (477), thickener (407, 412) and colorant (160b)], maltodextrin, and food flavoring substance.

Appendix C

Methods for Calculating the Maximum Surface Area of a Package or Container

C.1 Methods for calculating maximum surface areas of the packaging of different shapes

C.1.1 Method for calculating (surface area of) a rectangular package or container

the height (cm) times the width (cm) of the largest side of a rectangular package or container

C.1.2 Method for calculating (surface area of) a cylindrical or a nearly cylindrical package or container

40% of the height (cm) of the packaging or the container multiplied by the circumference (cm) of the cylinder.

C.1.3 Method for calculating (surface area of) packages or containers of other shapes

Surface of the flat or almost flat side is regarded as the maximum surface area. When there are multiple flat sides or almost flat sides, the one with the largest areas shall be used for calculation.

If there is no obvious flat side or almost flat side, the maximum area is 40% of the total surface area of the tiled package or container.

C.2 When calculating the surface area, the area of seal and the part that cannot print characters shall be excluded. While calculating surface area of bottle or can-shaped packages, the shoulders, necks, the edges at the top and the bottom shall be excluded.

Appendix D Methods for Declaring Allergens in Food Labels

D.1 General Provisions

This appendix provides examples of labeling forms when prepackaged food ingredients contain allergenic substances and when allergenic substances may be indirectly introduced during production process.

D.2 When the allergenic substances are used as ingredients, one of the following declarations shall be used for the warning of allergens:

D2.1 Use easy-to-recognize names and labeling methods in the ingredients list (either bold or underlined fonts can be used) to provide warnings:

Ingredients: water, whole milk powder, cream, vegetable oil, chocolate (cocoa liquor, sugar, cocoa butter, phospholipid, PGPR, food flavoring essence, and lemon yellow), peanut, glucose syrup, propylene glycol ester of fatty acid, carrageenan, guar gum, annatto, maltodextrin, and food flavoring substance.

Ingredients: **wheat flour**, sugar, **hazelnut jam** (**hazelnut** and chocolate)

D.2.2 Specially mark warning information near the ingredients list, “Food Allergen”, “Allergenic Substances”, or “Allergen Information (Tip)” can be used as the guide word, or no guide word is used:

Contains eggs, peanuts, nuts, and dairy;

Contains peanut butter and soybean products;

The product contains fish and soybean components;

The product contains fish and soybean components, which may lead to allergy.

D3. Allergenic substances that are or may be introduced indirectly during processing shall be alerted close to the list of ingredients or at other locations (on package) using the following methods:

“This product may contain...”

“May contain...”

“May contain trace amount of...”

“The production equipment also processes food containing...”

“The production line also processes food containing...”

D4. The following deep-processed ingredients in which the protein components that lead to allergy have been removed, so they are exempted from declaring allergens:

a. Soybean and peanuts processed products: refined soybean oil, refined peanut oil, soy-derived peptides, phospholipids, vitamin E, phytosterols, plant phytosterol esters, plant stanol esters, and xanthan gum;

b. Grain processed products: starch, dextrin, glucose syrup, refined vegetable oil derived from grains;

c. Aquatic processed products: chitin, chitosan oligosaccharide, fish gelatin, refined fish oil, DHA derived from fish oil;

d. Dairy processed products: lactitol.

D.5 Other situations where labeling of allergenic substances is exempted:

a. Products whose single ingredient is an allergenic substance, which are exempt from repeated labeling if the name of the allergenic substance already appears in the product name;

b. Edible alcohol and distilled spirits.

~~Net Content and Configuration Marking~~

~~The net content (configuration) of individual prepackaged food may be declared as follows:~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 450 g;~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 225g (200g + 25g for free);~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 200g + 25g for free;~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): (200+25) g;~~

~~A.3.4 The net content and drained (solid) content may be declared as follows:~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 425g, drained content (solid content or “food ingredients in solid form”) no less than 255g (or no less than 60%).~~

~~A.3.5 For pre-quantified prepackaged foods containing multiple pre-quantified foods of the same kind, the net content and configuration may be declared as follows:~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 40g x 5;~~

~~Net content (or configuration/net content): 5 x 40g;~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 200g (5 x 40g);~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 200g (40g x 5);~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 200g (5 units);~~

~~Net content: 200g, configuration: 5 x 40g;~~

~~Net content: 200g, configuration: 40g x 5;~~

~~Net content: 200g, configuration: 5 units;~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 200g (100g + 50g x 2);~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 200g (80g x 2 + 40g);~~

~~Net content: 200g, configuration: 100g + 50g x 2;~~

~~Net content: 200g, configuration: 80g x 2 + 40g.~~

~~A.3.6 For pre-quantified prepackaged foods containing multiple pre-quantified foods of the different kinds, the net content and configuration may be declared as follows:~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 200g (Product A 40g x 3, Product B 40g x 2);~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 200g (40g x 3, 40g x 2);~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): 100g Product A, 50g x 2 Product B, 50g Product C;~~

~~Net content (or net content/configuration): Product A: 100g, Product B: 50g x 2, Product C: 50g;~~

~~Net content/configuration: 100g (Product A), 50g x 2 (Product B), 50g (Product C).~~

~~Net content/configuration: Product A 100g, Product B 50g x 2, Product C 50g.~~

END TRANSLATION

Attachments:

[GB7718-2025.pdf](#)