

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Sri Lanka Enacts New Legislation for Food Labeling and Advertising

Country: Sri Lanka

Post: Colombo

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

Prepared By: Thilini Kankanamge, Agricultural Specialist and Mariano J. Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Approved By: Mariano Beillard, Senior Regional Agricultural Attaché

Report Highlights:

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka's (Sri Lanka) Ministry of Health recently introduced the Food (Labeling and Advertising) Regulations (2022). These new regulations regulate the labeling and advertising requirements of packaged food effective January 1, 2024, replacing the current Food (Labeling and Advertising) Regulations (2005). The Sri Lankan government notified the new regulations (dated January 17, 2023) in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – Extraordinary (official gazette) on February 14, 2023. As per the new regulations, common names must appear in bold type in all three languages (English, Sinhala, and Tamil) used in Sri Lanka. For imported food products, the country-of-origin, the importer's name and address must appear. When food is imported in bulk and repackaged, the date of manufacture and repackaging must be labeled.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) website <http://www.slsi.lk/index.php?lang=en>. The U.S. Embassy in Colombo – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), USDA and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka India has not officially endorsed this report. Import approval for any product is subject to local rules and regulations as interpreted by Sri Lankan officials at the time of product entry. [Note: Use Google Chrome to access the links that do not open in Microsoft Edge].

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka's (Sri Lanka) Ministry of Health recently introduced the [Food \(Labeling and Advertising\) Regulations \(2022\)](#) (see, Appendix I and attachments). These new regulations regulate the labeling and advertising of packaged food products. The Sri Lankan government notified the new regulations (dated January 27, 2023) in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – Extraordinary (official gazette) on February 14, 2023. The regulation is in effective as of January 1, 2024.

The new **Food (Labeling and Advertising) Regulations (2022)** replaces the existing [Food \(Labeling and Advertising\) Regulations \(2005\)](#). As per the new regulations, common names must appear in bold type in three languages (English, Sinhala, and Tamil). For imported food products, the country-of-origin, the importer's name, and address must appear. When food is imported in bulk and repackaged, the date of manufacture and repackaging must be labeled.

Background:

Labeling and Advertising of Packaged Food – The Current 2005 Regulations: The [Food \(Labeling and Advertising\) Regulations \(2005\)](#) regulate general food labeling in Sri Lanka. The regulations require package or container labeling with the label printed in any two of the three languages utilized in Sri Lanka (i.e., English, Sinhala, or Tamil). The label must be indelibly printed, painted, or affixed on the main panel (for imports, affixing a supplementary label is permissible). The regulation does not apply to packaged food weighed, counted, and or measured in the consumer's presence.

Packaging main panel must contain:

- The bolded common name of the contents which must appear at least in two of the three languages.
- Brand or trade name, if any, in any one or more of the three languages.
- Net contents of the package expressed in international symbols: grams (g); kilograms (kg); milliliters (ml); and or liters (l).

Packaging needs to contain on a panel, except in the case of prepacked food products that do not exceed 25 grams, the following:

- Permitted food additives by name or International Numbering System (INS) number.
- Storage and use instructions.
- Name and address of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor in Sri Lanka.

- Batch number.
- Date of expiry and manufacture (imported bulk food – date of manufacture and repacking) in the format of DD/MM/YY or YY/MM/DD. The expiry date can be on the bottle closure for bottled milk and carbonated milk cans – lid or top/bottom of the can. A date of expiry is not required for sugar, tea, cereals, and pulses sold in wholesale packs, fresh vegetables, fruits, roots, and tubers, and for bread (other than sliced bread).
- List of ingredients by common names in descending order of their proportions.
- Country-of-origin (for imported food).
- For foods treated with ionizing radiation, or utilizing ingredients of same effect, it must carry a written statement in proximity to the common name of the food, indicating the international weight/volume symbol.
- Any other declarations required by regulations.

Special regulations apply for, but are not limited to:

- Blended oil.
- Fruit-based beverages for direct consumption or reconstitution.
- Carbonated soft drinks.
- Vinegar.
- Use of fruits and pictorial presentation of fruits on non-fruit-based confectionaries, chocolates, biscuits, similar products, drink mixes, dessert preparations.
- Special nutritive values.
- Enriched food.
- Special dietary use.
- Use of terminology relating to medicinal property and use for specified illnesses.
- Irradiated products, or when an irradiated product is used as an ingredient of a product.
- Use of “butter” in the label of chocolates and flour confectionary products.
- Use of “natural.”
- Use of “substitute.”

Labeling and Advertising of Packaged Food – The New 2022 Regulations: The new regulation, [Food \(Labeling and Advertising\) Regulations \(2022\)](#) requires containers and packages to display the following declarations indelibly and legibly on the main panel:

- Common name of the product in bold type in all three languages.
- Trade name and brand name (if any), in any one or more of the three languages.
- The net contents of the package or container expressed in SI units or by the international symbol ‘g’ or ‘kg’ in the case of solids, ‘ml’ or ‘l’ in the case of liquids and, if packaged in liquid medium, the net drained weight expressed as ‘g’ or ‘kg’.
- The following declarations shall be made indelibly and legibly on any panel in any one or more of the three Languages:
 - (i) A complete list of ingredients used in the food by their common names in descending order of weight (m/m) at the time of manufacture of the food including any permitted food additive by its common name and INS number as prescribed by regulations made under the Act.

- (ii) (A) The name and address of the manufacturer and distributor, and in the case of imported food products, in addition the name and address of the importer.
 - (B) The name and address of the packer, if any.
 - (iii) The batch number or code number or a decipherable code marking.
 - (iv) The date of manufacture.
 - (v) The date of expiry.
 - (vi) In case where foods are imported in bulk and repackaged, the date of manufacture and the date of repackaging.
 - (vii) The country-of-origin in case of imported foods.
 - (viii) Nutrition labeling in letters of font size not less than 1.5 millimeters.
 - (ix) Any other declarations stipulated under these regulations.
- Consumer warnings, if any, specified in any regulations under the Act in all three languages in letters of font size not less than 1.5 millimeters.
 - Instructions for storage and use, if any, in a minimum of two of the three languages.

The provisions of the new regulation shall not apply to prepackaged food products, the weight of which does not exceed 25 grams, or the volume does not exceed 30 milliliters. Where a label in any of the three languages has been affixed on an imported package or container of food, a supplementary label conforming to the regulations must appear clearly in bold type in the other two languages.

APPENDIX I – Sri Lanka, Food (Labeling and Advertising) Regulations (2022)



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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
EXTRAORDINARY

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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

L.D.B 11/80 (30).

FOOD ACT, No. 26 OF 1980

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Health in consultation with the Food Advisory Committee under section 32 of the Food Act, No. 26 of 1980.

KEHELIYA RAMBUKWELLA,
Minister of Health.

Colombo,
17th January, 2023.

Regulations

1. These regulations may be cited as Food (Labelling and Advertising) Regulations 2022 and shall come into operation on 01st of January 2024.
2. A person shall not import, transport, distribute, store, sell, offer for sale, expose or keep for sale or advertise for sale, any food contained in a package or container, unless such package or container is labelled in accordance with these regulations:

Provided, that these regulations shall not apply to any packs for retail sale, if the food is of the nature, quality, quantity, origin or brand requested by the purchaser and is weighed, counted or measured in the presence of the purchaser.



1A-PG 6221 - 4506 (02/2023)
This Gazette Extraordinary can be downloaded from www.documents.gov.lk

Attachments:

[Food \(Labelling and Advertising\) Regulations 2022.pdf](#)