

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Vietnam Amends the Labeling Requirements for Imported Goods

Country: Vietnam

Post: Hanoi

Report Category: Beverages, Exporter Guide, Food Processing Ingredients, Food Service - Hotel Restaurant Institutional, Retail Foods, Competitor, Export Promotion Programs, Honey, Market Development Reports, Market Promotion/Competition, Product Brief, Promotion Opportunities, Sales Mission Evaluation, Snack Foods, Trade Show Announcement, Trade Show Closing, Trade Show Evaluation, Dairy and Products, Wine

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Report Highlights:

This report provides a summary and unofficial translation of the Government of Vietnam's (GVN) Decree 111/2021/ND-CP, dated December 9, 2021, Amending and Supplementing Decree 43/2017/ND-CP on Goods Labeling. This amendment covers all categories of food, beverages, and agricultural products circulated in Vietnam, both domestically produced and imported. Decree 111 will replace several parts of Decree 43 and take effect on February 15, 2021.

Summary

Decree 111/2021 amends and supplements mandatory labeling requirements found in Decree 43, for imported goods and extends its scopes to goods exported from Vietnam. This Decree is not applicable for goods temporarily imported for re-export; goods temporarily imported for use at trade fairs or exhibitions and then re-exported; goods in transit, and transshipped goods. This Decree is not applicable for fresh and raw foods, or processed foods without packaging that are sold directly to consumers.

Vietnam notified this Decree to the World Trade Organization (WTO) as G/TBT/N/VNM/192 on April 26, 2021, as the Draft Decree amending and supplementing several articles of Decree 43/2017 on Goods Labeling. The United States submitted comments to this notification in June 2021.

Decree 111 revises the following labeling requirements for imported goods:

- Mandatory content on the original labels (amending Article 10 of Decree 43)
- Name of the entity responsible for goods (amending Article 12 of Decree 43)
- Origin of goods (amending Article 15 of Decree 43)
- Quantities of ingredients (amending Article 16 of Decree 43)
- Mandatory content to be listed on the label depending on the category of the good (replacing Appendix I of Decree 43)
- Requirements for ingredient declaration (replacing Appendix IV of Decree 43)

The mandatory labeling content will be examined by Vietnam Customs when importers register for customs clearance. Should U.S. exporters have any questions, please contact aghamoi@fas.usda.gov

Below are key changes in mandatory labeling requirements for imported goods.

Original Labels Must Include the Origin of the Goods

Article 1.5.2 of Decree 111 amends the mandatory content required on labels of imported goods. The original label of imported goods is now required to include the following contents in a foreign language or Vietnamese:

- Name of goods
- Origin of goods
- The name or abbreviated name of the manufacturer or the entity responsible for the goods in the country of origin

Origin of Goods

Article 1.7 requires labeling the origin of imported goods as follows:

- The origin of goods should include one of the following phrases: “made in,” “manufactured in,” “producing country,” “origin,” “made by,” “product of” in addition to the name of the country or

territory producing the goods or [represented] in accordance with the provisions of law on the origin of the goods.

- Where the origin of goods cannot be determined, the place where the final stage of finishing the goods is performed should be labeled using one of the following phrases or a combination of phrases displaying the finishing stage of goods as follows: “assembled at,” “bottled at,” “blended at,” “completed at,” “packed at,” “labeled at” with the name of the country or territory where the final stage of finishing the goods is performed.
- The name of the country or territory where the goods are manufactured or the place where the final stage of finishing the goods is performed cannot be abbreviated.

Name or Abbreviated Name of the Manufacturer or the Entity Responsible for Goods

Article 1.5.2 Point c1 states that if the original label does not show the full name and address of the manufacturer or the entity responsible for the good in the country of origin, this must be included in the documents accompanying the goods.

Vietnamese Language Label

Article 1.5.2 Point c2 requires that importers add an extra label with the mandatory content translated into Vietnamese prior to placing the goods into the Vietnamese market, if the original label is in a foreign language.

Ingredients Declaration

Article 1.8 amends the labeling requirements for quantitative ingredients declaration.

- If the ingredient is an additive, write the name of the additive group, the name of the additive or the INS international code (if any);
- If the ingredient is a sweetener or colorant, write the name of the group of sweeteners and colorants, the name of the substance, or the INS international code (if any) and add that the substance is a “natural” substance,” “natural-identical,” “synthetic,” or “artificial”.
- If the ingredient is a flavoring, write “flavoring” together with one or more of the following phrases to clarify the meaning: “natural,” “natural-identical,” “synthetic,” or “artificial”.
- In case the country's additive number is the same as the international code (INS), the country code may be used instead of the international number (INS).

Mandatory Content Depending on the Category of the Good

For processed and prepackaged foods, Decree 111 requires that nutritional composition and nutritional values are labeled according to the Ministry of Health (MOH)’s guidance. Currently, MOH is drafting a regulation on nutritional labeling. Post will monitor and provide updates on the development of this regulation.

For certain types of products including starchy foods (rice, wheat, etc), genetically engineered food, irradiated food, and food additives, the mandatory content, depending on the characteristics of the goods, remain unchanged. See Appendix I for details.

Transitional Provision

Decree 111 includes a transitional provision in Article 1.9 stating that imported goods that were imported and circulated prior to the effective date of Decree 111, with labels in accordance with Decree No. 43/2017 can continue to be circulated and used until the expiry date displayed on their labels.

Full Text of Decree 111

The English translation of Decree 111 is available in the attachment. The full text of the Decree is available in Vietnamese at:

http://vanban.chinhphu.vn/portal/page/portal/chinhphu/hethongvanban?class_id=1&_page=1&mode=detail&document_id=204681

Attachments:

[Decree 111 2021 ND-CP translated.docx](#)