



The penalties provided for under the regulations include fines, imprisonment as well as cancellation or suspension of licenses or both.

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REGULATIONS FOR LABELING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS

(FOOD CONTROL ACT 1993)



Consumers, check your food product labels before you buy. Its worth it!!!!!!!

ITS YOUR RIGHT

The Ministry Health is reminding the general public, manufacturers of foods product and traders that violation of the provisions of the labeling of pre-packaged foods Regulations of 2002 is an offence. The major provisions of these regulations are:

1. NAME OF THE PRODUCT - tells consumers what they are buying and must not give any false impression
2. LIST OF THE INGREDIENTS - must be in descending order of proportion by weight.
3. DATE MARK - all pre-packaged foods should be date marked for shelf life information.
4. STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS - The storage instructions should be given so that the date mark remains valid.
5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER - this is shown for comments, complaints and questions the consumer may wish to ask.
6. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN - some products may appear misleading if their place of origin is not stated.
7. PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS - should be shown especially for high risk foods.
8. QUANTITY (weight or volume) - so as consumer can compare fairly.
9. SPECIAL CLAIMS - must be factual.
10. LANGUAGE - English or Setswana in case of food products sold in the country.
11. BATCH NUMBER - to identify the producing factory and the batch.
12. STATEMENTS - must be conspicuous, indelible and legible with no misleading information.
13. NUTRITIONAL FACTS - guides the consumer about the nutritional content of a product.



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THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW:

- Sale of expired food products
- Obliterating or forging date marking and any other information on the label
- Import, distribute, sell or offer for sale pre-packaged food unless it is labelled in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations;
- Import, distribute, sell or offer for sale, any food
 - 1). whose expiry date has lapse
 - 2). Whose expiry date, best before date, or sell by date has been obliterated or forged, or
 - 3). whose label has been altered obliterated or removed;
- 4). describe or present packaged food or any label or in a labelling manner which is false, misleading, deceptive or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character in any respect; or
- 5). describe or present packaged food or any label or in any labelling by words, pictorial or other devices which refers to or are suggestive either directly or in directly, of any other product which such food might be confused with or in such a manner as to lead the purchaser or consumer to suppose that the food is connected with such other product.