

# LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS REGULATIONS S.I 15 of 2003

The Ministry of Health & Wellness through the Food Safety and Quality Management Unit wishes to remind **all food manufacturers, packers, distributors, importers, exporters and suppliers in regards to compliance with Botswana's Labelling of Prepackaged Foods Regulations.**

## MANDATORY LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

- a) Name of the food: shall indicate the true nature of the food, specific and not generic.
- b) List of ingredients: Must be in descending order of proportion by weight. **All food additives must be declared on label, class titles shall be used together with specific names and/or recognized numerical identification, e.g Flavour Enhancers (E621, E635); Preservative (Sodium Benzoate) or Preservative (E211).**
- c) **Quantity:** Weight or volume (e.g 500mL, 70g), Use SI units.
- d) **Name and address of the manufacturer,** packer, distributor, importer, exporter and supplier.
- e) **Country of origin of the food:** where the food was produced e.g "Product of Botswana", "Produced in" or "Sourced from".
- f) **Lot identification number:** A batch code assigned to a particular quantity of pre - packaged food produced under the same conditions for traceability
- g) **Date marking:** All foods must be date marked for shelf life information e.g "best before", "sell by", "use by", "expiry" or "exp".
- h) **Storage instructions:** Conditions for storage must be clearly stated.
- i) **Instructions for use:** To enable consumer to make appropriate use of the food, e.g. reheating or cooking instructions
- j) **Quantitative labelling of ingredients:** If emphasis is placed on one or more valuable ingredients, the percentage of the ingredient by mass in the final product shall be declared.
- k) Where the Government has established grades for a particular food product, the grades shall be indicated. In addition, foods and ingredients with allergenic properties shall be declared on the label.

### No person shall:

- I. Sell expired food products or whose date markings have been forged/obliterated.
- II. Describe or present food on any label which is false or misleading.
- III. Indicate a medical claim (curing of illness/disease) on labels of Pre-packaged foods.

It is an offence to violate provisions of the regulations; the penalties include fines, imprisonment as well as cancellation or suspension of license or both. The Food Control Act and its regulations are available online: [www.moh.gov.bw](http://www.moh.gov.bw). The Food Safety and Quality Management unit is planning a workshop with the Food business operators, kindly register with the contacts below.