



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Fresh Fruit & Vegetables

Labelling Requirements

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Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Section



Applicable Legislation

- *Canada Agricultural Products Act*
 - *Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Regulations*
- *Consumer Packaging & Labelling Act & Regulations*
- *Food & Drugs Act & Regulations*
- *Weights & Measures Act*



All Label Information Must Be:

- *true and not misleading or deceptive*
- *easily read and clearly and prominently displayed in letters of no less than 1.6mm(1/16 inch) in height, based on the lower case letter 'o', unless otherwise specified*
- *displayed on any panel except the bottom*, with the exception of the information required to appear on the principal display panel*

** In certain cases, such as the Nutrition Facts Table, information may sometimes appear on the bottom panel*



Types of Containers we Regulate

- *Prepackaged container*
- *Shipping*
- *Master*
- *Bulk*



Pre-Packaged

A prepackaged container is a receptacle, package, wrapper, or confining band in which a product is ordinarily sold to or used or purchased by a consumer but does not include package liners or shipping containers or any outer wrapping or box that is not customarily displayed to the consumer.





Shipping Container

*A **shipping container** is a container which normally contains non pre-packaged produce and is not destined for sale to consumers.*





Master Container

*A **Master Container** is an outer container in which containers of pre-packaged produce, are packed.*

Note: When inner containers are prepackaged, these inner containers must meet all the requirements for pre-packaged product.



Labelling Requirements for Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Containers

B= Bilingual ❖= On principal display panel X= Required	Prepackaged Containers	Shipping Containers	Master Containers (When not transparent)
Common Name	❖ X (B)	X	X
Net Quantity	❖ X (B)	X	
Responsible Party	X	X	X
Country of Origin "Product of" (imported produce)	❖ X (B)	X	X
Grade (31Commodities)	❖ X (B)	X only Domestic	X only Domestic
RPW	❖ if applicable	N/A	N/A
Nutritional Labelling	voluntary (B)	voluntary (B)	voluntary (B)
Irradiation	X (B)	X (B)	X (B)
Organic Symbol	voluntary (B)	voluntary (B)	voluntary (B)



Specific Requirements for all Containers

■ *Potatoes*

- *the words "yellow fleshed", or "yellow fleshed potatoes", where the common name is not shown elsewhere on the container*

■ *Apples*

- *variety*
- *applicable diameter when in container of untiered apples unless container is:*
 - *transparent*
 - *an open basket of not more than 11 quarts capacity, or;*
 - *contains apples of Canada Commercial Cookers grade.*



Bulk Container

A bulk container is a shipping container and must meet all the requirements set out in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations in respect of

- *package size,*
- *labelling; and*
- *grade.*

A Ministerial Exemption may be required to waive one or all of the prescribed regulatory requirements.





Exemptions to Labelling Requirements

- *produce prepackaged in a wrapper, (e.g. head of lettuce), or confining band of less than 13mm (1/2 in.) in width (e.g. broccoli);*
- *displayed in bulk in a retail store*
 - (i) sold in one unit, and packaged in a clear transparent protective wrapping..*
 - (ii) without any packaging*



Exemptions to Labelling Requirements

Fruits marketed in combination with other kinds of fruit or with other food products in a fruit basket or gift pack or vegetables marketed in combination with other vegetables are exempt provided:

- (a) the container is clearly labelled with the term “Gift Pack” for fruit and “Stew Pack”, “Vegetables for Stew” for vegetables*
- (b) no one kind of fruit or vegetable may exceeds 1kg net weight, and*
- (c) the net weight of the contents of the container does not exceed 10kg.*





Expressing Net Quantity

Net quantity must be declared by using one or more of the following:

- *weight*
- *volume, or*
- *numerical count*

Units must be displayed on the principal display panel, in metric, or metric and Canadian units, in bold face type, in a minimum of 1.6mm (1/16 in.)



Name & Address of Responsible Party

- *the identity and principal place of business of the person by or for whom the produce was grown or packaged for resale*
- *address must be complete and must include*
 - *the city, province and postal code for Canadian addresses, and equivalent for forieign addresses*
- *this information may be shown in English, in French, or in both languages, anywhere on the label except the bottom*



Country of Origin

- *Every container of imported produce shall be labelled to show on the principal display panel and in close proximity to the declaration of net quantity or the grade name, the words, “Product of”, Produce of “, “Grown in”, “Country of Origin”, followed by the name of the country of origin of the produce, or other words which clearly indicate the country in which the produce was grown.*



‘Substantially Transformed’

- *‘Substantially transformed’ means that the produce has been peeled, sliced, chopped, shredded, blended, or otherwise transformed to undergo a fundamental change in form, appearance or nature such that the produce existing after the change is a new and different product from that existing before the change. Packing, washing, grading, or trimming **do not** constitute ‘substantial transformation’. (Test Market proposal)*

Country of Origin

	Whole Produce	Substantially Transformed
Domestic Produce	Country not required Voluntary	Country not required Voluntary
Imported	“Product of ...” or “Grown in ...” Country(ies) of Origin	Country(ies) of Origin “Country of Origin (if one country) or “Prepared in ...” or “Made in...” (if more than one country) TM
Imported then repackaged in Canada (same product repacked)	Country(ies) of Origin	Country(ies) of Origin
Imported then substantially transformed and packaged in Canada	“Made in Canada from Imported Ingredients” or Made in Canada from domestic and imported ingredients “ E.g. Heads of lettuce shredded in Canada	“Made in Canada from Imported Ingredients” or “Made in Canada from domestic and imported ingredients” or “Prepared in Canada” or No declaration of country of origin E.g. Shredded cabbage and shredded carrots mixed and transformed into coleslaw.

Country of Origin requirements

[✓] *Product of Mexico*

[✓] *Product of Canada*

[✓] *Product of USA*





Country of Origin requirements



- *US whole product, cut, washed (substantially transformed), and packaged in Canada'*

Labelled:

- *“Made in Canada’ qualified with ‘from imported ingredients or*
- *‘Prepared in Canada’ statement may be used.*
- *Alternatively, ‘Product of USA’, could be stated.*



Grade Name

- *Grade names are established for 31 fruits and vegetables and are set out in the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Regulations*
- *The 'Canada' grade prefix is limited to Canadian grown produce i.e. 'Canada' No. 1 or 'Canada' Fancy*
- *No word or words declaring or implying produce is superior in quality to the grade marked may be used i.e. Sally's Superior Potatoes, Canada No. 1*



Registration (RPW) Number

- *Every container of prepackaged produce conveyed inter-provincially from a registered establishment shall have clearly marked and prominently displayed on its principal display panel the establishment registration number*





Nutritional Labelling – Exemptions

Food & Drugs A & Regulations

- *Fresh fruits and vegetables without added ingredients; oranges with added food colour and fruits and vegetables coated with paraffin wax or petrolatum*

Also included are:

- *Fresh herbs (not dried herbs)*
- *Sprouts*
- *Minimally processed fruits and vegetables (washed, peeled, cut-up, shredded)*
- *Bagged mixed salad and coleslaw (without dressing, croutons, bacon bits, etc.)*



Nutritional Labelling – Losing the Exemption

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables lose their exemption if the label or advertisement, on any package, displays :

- *a health claim*
- *a nutritional reference or nutrient content claim*
- *a biological role claim*
- *the phrase, “nutrition facts”, “valeur nutritive” or “valeurs nutritives”*
- *a health related name, statement, logo, symbol, seal of approval or other proprietary mark of a third party*



Irradiation

- *Irradiated foods must comply with requirements of the Food and Drug Regulations. The labelling regulations as outlined in these regulations require the identification of wholly irradiated foods with both a written statement such as "irradiated" or "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" and the international symbol for irradiation.*
- *the label applied to a prepackaged product shall carry the symbol and one of the following statements, in both official languages:*
 - *Statements:*
 - *"treated with radiation"*
 - *"treated by irradiation"*
 - *"irradiated"*





Organic

- *As of June 30, 2009, when the Organic Products Regulations come into effect, the use of the word 'organic' and the Canada Organic Logo, will be regulated and must comply with the Organic Product Regulations*
- *Use of the logo will be voluntary*
- *The name of the Certifying Body must appear anywhere on the label.*



Labelling Compliance and Enforcement

General Compliance and Enforcement is actioned :

- *Complaints*
- *With General Monitoring Activities*
- *At shipping point/ Customs Clearance*

A form letter is provided to establishments when out-of-compliance labels are found.

- *The infraction (with regulatory references) will be identified.*
- *A corrective action plan with a date when the action is to be completed will be stated.*
- *The inspector **and** the establishment representative must both sign the infraction notification.*