LABELLING GUIDANCE FOR SHIPPING AND MASTER CONTAINERS OF FRESH PRODUCE IN THE CANADIAN MARKETPLACE

The following information is provided as guidance for the basic labelling requirements for shipping and/or master containers of fresh produce, for import to, or for interprovincial marketing in, the Canadian marketplace, which will meet Canadian regulatory and labelling policy requirements for the containers under the following conditions:

1. Shipping or master containers that will never appear on the retail floor.
2. Shipping or master containers designed to be used at retail and to be sold as a consumer unit.
3. Shipping or master containers destined to be used on the retail floor (as display) but not sold as a consumer unit.

It is crucial that users of the guidance document carefully consider which of the above (3) marketing conditions is applicable to their containers. Failure to do so may result in non-compliant labels which in some cases could lead to rejected product.

SCOPE
This document includes labelling guidance for shipping and master containers of fresh produce which include fresh vegetables and fruits without added ingredients; fresh herbs, such as parsley, basil, thyme, etc. (but not dried herbs); sprouts; fresh nuts; edible fungi or fruits and vegetables that are minimally processed (e.g., washed, peeled, cut-up, shredded, etc.), including mixtures of fruits and vegetables, such as bagged mixed salad and coleslaw (without dressing, croutons, bacon bits, etc.).

GENERAL GUIDANCE
• It is strongly recommended that the user of this document be aware of specific vendor/target market requirements when developing labels for product for the Canadian marketplace.
• This guidance document is intended as a tool to assist industry in developing labels that are in compliance with Canadian legislation; however it is the obligation of the responsible party to ensure that all federal and provincial regulations are met.
• Fresh produce may be marketed in any suitable container, subject to the following:
  o Fresh produce for which a grade is established may have container size requirements and size limits; the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations and the Exemptions under the Test Marketing Provision of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations list should be consulted (See References below)
  o No person shall package produce in a container that bears a label that misrepresents the quality, quantity, composition, nature, safety, value, origin or variety of the contents.
  o Containers of produce shall not be so stained, soiled, warped, broken or otherwise damaged as to affect the shipping quality or saleability of the produce packed therein.
• In some cases produce may be exempted from some of the requirements of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations; the Exemptions under the Test Marketing Provision of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations list should be consulted (See References below).
• Both federal labelling and federal and Quebec provincial language regulations have been considered for this document.
• With the exceptions where noted, the information provided shall appear on the principal display panel (see Definition of terms) of the shipping or master container; however, there is no requirement for the information to be on an adhesive label. It is at the discretion of the user to determine if some or all of the following is printed directly on the container or on a label applied to the principal display surface.
Labelling Guidance for Shipping and Master Containers of Fresh Produce in the Canadian Marketplace

- **Labelling of Allergen, Gluten Sources and Sulphites.**
  New enhanced allergen labelling requirements came into effect on August 4, 2012 to address priority food allergens, gluten sources and sulphites present in prepackaged food products. These new requirements are results of amendments to the *Food and Drug Regulations (FDR)* on February 16, 2011. The Food and Drug Regulations definition for "prepackaged products" includes both non retail and consumer retail prepackaged products. When sulphites (when 10 ppm or more), priority allergen or gluten sources are present in the produce through addition as ingredients, processing aids or wax coating components, their presence must be declared by the prescribed source names. *(Example: Wax coatings containing casein used on fresh produce, which were previously exempt from declaration, are now required to declare "Contains milk").* The required source declaration may be declared in the list of ingredients if a list of ingredients is declared or in a "Contains" statement on any label panel except the bottom of the package.

For a list of priority allergens and more allergen labelling information please see References below

  **Please note:** Section B.11.001.1 of the *Food and Drug Regulations* prohibits the sale of "any fruit or vegetable that is intended to be consumed raw, except grapes, if sulphurous acid or any salt thereof has been added thereto."

  The only fresh produce officially exempt from this ruling, as noted above are table grapes. *(Fresh peeled or pre-cut potatoes treated with sulphites that are destined for further processing into cooked products (e.g. pre-cut potatoes to make French fries or potato chips) must be labelled as treated with sulphites for further processing)*

- For more guidance on the labelling of fresh fruits and vegetables please refer to the *Labelling Guide for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables* found on the CFIA website. Please see the link in the References below.
- The list of references at the end of this document provides links to Canadian regulatory information and guidance documents.
1. SHIPPING OR MASTER CONTAINERS THAT WILL NEVER APPEAR ON THE RETAIL FLOOR

Except where noted, the following information is required on shipping or master containers that will never appear on the retail floor. The container shall be labelled on the principal display panel (unless otherwise indicated) with the following information in one of the official languages (English or French):

a) The common name of the produce (and variety name for apples). (Common name is not required if the container is an open container or is transparent).

b) The net quantity declaration of the product must be declared by count, weight or volume in metric or metric and Canadian units (e.g. pounds, ounces), unless the manner of declaration is stipulated by sections 19 and 20* of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations (FFVR). If both metric and Canadian units are used, they must be grouped together on the label with no intervening material and the metric units should be declared first. (Example: 454 g 1 lb) The abbreviations for grams, kilograms, pounds and ounces, should be in lower case letters (Example: kg, lb) with no "s", brackets, or punctuation.

*Sections 19 and 20 of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations can be found at the following link: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._285/page-7.html

(Example: 454 g 1 lb) The abbreviations for grams, kilograms, pounds and ounces, should be in lower case letters (Example: kg, lb) with no "s", brackets, or punctuation.

SCHEDULE I.1 of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations can be found at the following link: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._285/page-20.html

c) The grade name according to the grade established for the commodity in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations.

- Shipping and master containers of imported fresh produce are exempt from declaring a grade. If a grade is declared, the imported product which conforms to the equivalent Canadian grade standard and is marketed in its original container may bear the grade name established in the country of origin of the produce.
  - If there is no grade name established in the country of origin, then the applicable grade name as established in Column II of Tables I and II of SCHEDULE I.1** of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations may be used.
  - Only Canadian product can bear a Canada grade name as established in Column III of Tables I and II of SCHEDULE I.1** of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations.
  - When the size of produce is required by the Regulations to be shown on a label, it shall be shown immediately adjacent to the grade name in the same sized print as the grade name (Section 25 of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations)

**SCHEDULE I.1 of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations can be found at the following link: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._285/page-7.html

d) For imported product, the country of origin with the words "Product of (name of country)" or other words that clearly indicate the country in which the produce was grown must appear in close proximity to the grade name or net quantity declaration.

e) The identity and principal place of business of the person (individual, corporation, business, head office, distributor, importer, etc.) by or for whom the product was manufactured or produced for resale must be shown on any part of the food container, except the bottom, in either French or English. The address should be complete enough for postal delivery within a reasonable delay.

f) For product marketed as organic product, the name of the certification body that has certified the product as organic shall be on the label - a list of Certification Bodies that have either: been accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to certify organic products; or recognized under an organic trade arrangement with a foreign competent authority under the Organic Products Regulations, 2009 can be found at the following link: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/organic-products/certification-and-verification/certification-bodies/eng/1327860541218/1327860730201

g) Other information may be required, depending on the nature of the food or the type of claims being made on the container.
  - If health claims or nutrient content claims are made on a container, nutrition labelling requirements must be considered. For further information please refer to Chapter 5 of the Guide to Food Labelling
and Advertising at the following link:
http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/tab5e.shtml

- If product has been irradiated please see the labelling requirements at Section 2.14.1 of the Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising (http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/guide-to-food-labelling-and-advertising/eng/1300118951990/1300118996556). Please note: currently the only fresh produce approved for irradiation and sale in Canada, are fresh onions or potatoes -to inhibit sprouting

h) For allergen labelling information please see General Guidance above. [This may apply to table grapes (containing sulphites when 10ppm or more) or fresh produce with a protective coating (containing a priority allergen or a gluten source)]

MINIMUM LETTER HEIGHT
All information required by the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations to be shown on the labels of produce shall be shown in print that is at least 1.6 mm (1/16 inch) in height except the following:

The declaration of net quantity, the grade name, the registration number of the registered establishment (if applicable) **, and the country of origin shall be shown in bold-face type. The minimum height of letters and numerical quantities (height in this case means, the height of an upper case letter where words appear in upper case; and the height of the lower case letter “o” where words appear in lower case or in a combination of upper and lower case), is governed by the area of the principal display surface of the container and is summarized in the following table:

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<td>≤32</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 32 to ≤258</td>
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Source: Chapter 2.6.1 of the Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising (Date Modified: 2011-07-27)
http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/ch2e.shtml#a2_6

**The registration number of the registered establishment is not required on these containers when the registration number is clearly marked and prominently affixed to the pallet of produce and where the numerals are shown in bold-face type and are not less than 3/4 inch (19.0 mm) in height. Please refer to the Exemptions under the Test Marketing Provision of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations at the following link:
**RPC LABELLING**
An ongoing national Test Market provides allowance for all required labelling including the declaration of net quantity, grade name, registration number and country origin to be shown in letters and numerals of not less than 1/16 of an inch (1.6 mm) on washable, reusable plastic containers (RPC’s) used as master or shipping containers.

Please refer to the Exemptions under the Test Marketing Provision of the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations* at the following link: [http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/frefra/qual/tstmarkte.shtml](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/frefra/qual/tstmarkte.shtml)

**DATE MARKING**
Prepackaged products consisting of fresh fruits and vegetables are exempt from durable life date ("best-before" date) labelling.

If date marking (with "packaged on", "packed on" or other similar wording) is applied to a shipping or master container that *is not offered for sale at retail*, it does not have to meet the manner of declaring as prescribed in B.01.007 *Food and Drug Regulations (FDR)* for the durable life date.

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR MASTER CONTAINERS**
Master containers need not be labelled with the required information referred to in a), c), d) and e above, if the information is easily and clearly discernible on the inner container or packages without opening the outer container. (However any information that is provided on the master container must follow the guidelines above)

Master containers which will not be sold as units to consumers need not be marked with the net weight of the container.
Labelling Guidance for Shipping and Master Containers of Fresh Produce in the Canadian Marketplace

2. SHIPPING OR MASTER CONTAINERS DESIGNED TO BE USED AT RETAIL AND TO BE SOLD AS A CONSUMER UNIT

Except where noted, the following information is required on shipping or master containers designed to be used at retail and to be sold as consumer units. The container shall be labelled on the principal display panel, unless otherwise noted, with the following information in both official languages (English and French); the French translation must be at least as prominent as the English (Prominence refers to font size, shading, bolding, number of times information appears on the container, etc.):

a) The common name (and variety name for apples) of the produce (common name is not required if the produce item is readily visible and identifiable)

b) The net quantity declaration of the product must be declared by count, weight or volume in metric or metric and Canadian units (e.g. pounds, ounces), unless the manner of declaration is stipulated by section 19 and 20* of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations (FFVR). If both metric and Canadian units are used, they must be grouped together on the label with no intervening material and the metric units should be declared first. The abbreviations for grams, kilograms, pounds and ounces, should be in lower case letters (Example: kg, lb) with no "s", brackets, or punctuation.

*Sections 19 and 20 of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations can be found at the following link: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._285/page-7.html

c) The grade name according to the grades established for the commodity in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations.

- Imported product which conforms to the equivalent Canadian grade standard and is marketed in its original container may bear the grade name established in the country of origin of the produce.
- If there is no grade name established in the country of origin, then the applicable grade name as established in Column II of Tables I and II of SCHEDULE I.1** of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations
- Only Canadian product can bear a Canada grade name as established in Column III Tables I and II of SCHEDULE I.1** of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations
- When the size of produce is required by the Regulations to be shown on a label, it shall be shown immediately adjacent to the grade name in the same sized print as the grade name (Section 25 of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations)

**SCHEDULE I.1 of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations can be found at the following link: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._285/page-20.html

d) For imported product, the country of origin with the words "Product of (name of country)" or other words that clearly indicate the country in which the produce was grown must appear in close proximity to the grade name or net quantity declaration.

e) The identity and principal place of business of the person (individual, corporation, business, head office, distributor, importer, etc.) by or for whom the product was manufactured or produced for resale must be shown on any part of the food container except the bottom, in either French or English. The address should be complete enough for postal delivery within a reasonable delay.

f) For product marketed as organic product, the name of the certification body that has certified the product as organic is required (a list of Certification Bodies that have either: been accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to certify organic products; or recognized under an organic trade arrangement with a foreign competent authority under the Organic Products Regulations, 2009 can be found at the following link: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/organic-products/certification-and-verification/certification-bodies/eng/1327860541218/1327860730201
g) **Other information** may be required, depending on the nature of the food or the type of claims being made on the container.

- If health claims or nutrient content claims are made on a container, nutrition labelling requirements must be considered. For further information please refer to Chapter 5 of the Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising at the following link: 

- If product has been *irradiated* please see the labelling requirements at Section 2.14.1 of the Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising ([http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/guide-to-food-labelling-and-advertising/eng/1300118951990/1300118996556](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/guide-to-food-labelling-and-advertising/eng/1300118951990/1300118996556)). Please note: currently the only fresh produce approved for irradiation and sale in Canada, are fresh onions or potatoes - to inhibit sprouting.

h) For *allergen labelling* information please see General Guidance above. [This may apply to table grapes (containing sulphites when 10ppm or more) or fresh produce with a protective coating (containing a priority allergen or a gluten source)]

**MINIMUM LETTER HEIGHT**

- All information required by the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations to be shown on the labels of produce shall be shown in print that is at least *1.6 mm (1/16 inch)* in height (Ref: Section 12 of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations) except the following:

  The declaration of *net quantity*, the *grade name*, the *registration number of the registered establishment* (if applicable) ***, and the *country of origin* shall be shown in **bold-face type**. The minimum height of letters and numerical quantities (height in this case means, the height of an upper case letter where words appear in upper case; and the height of the lower case letter “o” where words appear in lower case or in a combination of upper and lower case), is governed by the area of the principal display surface of the container and is summarized in the following table:

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**The registration number of the registered establishment is not required on these containers when the registration number is clearly marked and prominently affixed to the pallet of produce and where the numerals are shown in bold-face type and are not less than 3/4 inch (19.0 mm) in height. (Please refer to the Exemptions under the Test Marketing Provision of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations at the following link: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/frefra/qual/tstmarkte.shtml )

DATE MARKING
Prepackaged products consisting of fresh fruits and vegetables are exempt from durable life date ("best-before" date) labelling. However, if the manufacturer/retailer chooses to provide customers with this information or a “packaging date” it must be shown in the form and manner prescribed in the Food and Drug Regulations (FDR) regulations for the durable life date, and only the terms “best before” and “meilleur avant” or the terms “packaged on” (only to be used when packed at retail, for sale to consumer) and “empaqueté le” as appropriate according to B.01.007 FDR, can be used.

The date must be declared in both French and English on any panel except the bottom of the container. The date, however, may be placed on the bottom of the container, as long as a clear indication of its location is shown elsewhere on the label. [B.01.005 (4) FDR]

Durable life date, or “packaged on” (only for product packaged at retail) shall be shown in the following manner:

- the words “best before” and “meilleur avant” are grouped together
- the year, if necessary for clarity, shall be shown first and shall be expressed by at least the last two numbers of the year
- the month shall be shown in words after the year, if the year is shown, and may be abbreviated as prescribed by the regulation (See Chapter 2.11 of the Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/ch2ae.shtml#a2_11 )
- the day of the month shall be shown after the month and shall be expressed in numbers
- The bilingual symbols for the months in the durable life date are as follows: JA for JANUARY, FE for FEBRUARY, MR for MARCH, AL for APRIL, MA for MAY, JN for JUNE, JL for JULY, AU for AUGUST, SE for SEPTEMBER, OC for OCTOBER, NO for NOVEMBER, DE for DECEMBER.
- If the year is required for clarity, the durable life date must be given with the year first (at least the last two digits), followed by the month and then the day. An example of an acceptable declaration is as follows:

An acceptable example of a durable life date declaration is as follows:

Best before
12 JN 28
Meilleur avant

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR MASTER CONTAINERS SOLD AS CONSUMER UNITS
With the exception of net quantity declaration, master containers sold as consumer units need not be labelled with the required information referred to in a), c), d), and e) above, if the information is easily and clearly discernible on the inner container or packages without opening the outer container. The net quantity needs to be declared as total net quantity or number of units of individual net quantity (Reference: Section 28 of Consumer Packaging and Labelling Regulations (CPLR) - see link to CPLR in Reference Section.)
3. SHIPPING OR MASTER CONTAINERS DESTINED TO BE USED ON THE RETAIL FLOOR (AS DISPLAY) BUT NOT SOLD AS CONSUMER UNITS

Except where noted, the following information is required on shipping or master containers that are destined to be used on the retail floor but will not be sold as consumer units. The container shall be labelled on the principal display panel, unless otherwise noted, with the following information in both official languages (English and French); the French translation must be at least as prominent as the English (Prominence refers to font size, shading, bolding, number of times information appears on the container, etc.):

a) The common name (and variety name for apples) of the produce (common name is not required if the produce item is readily visible and identifiable). (The common name of the produce is not required if the container is an open container or is transparent.

b) The net quantity declaration of the product must be declared by count, weight or volume in metric or Canadian units (e.g. pounds, ounces), unless the manner of declaration is stipulated by section 19 and 20* of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations (FFVR). If both metric and Canadian units are used, they must be grouped together on the label with no intervening material and the metric units should be declared first. The abbreviations for grams, kilograms, pounds and ounces, should be in lower case letters (Example: kg, lb) with no "s", brackets, or punctuation.

*Sections 19 and 20 of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations can be found at the following link: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._285/page-7.html

c) The grade name according to the grades established for the commodity in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations.

- Shipping and master containers of imported produce are exempt from declaring a grade. If a grade is declared, the imported product which conforms to the equivalent Canadian grade standard and is marketed in its original container may bear the grade name established in the country of origin of the produce.
- If there is no grade name established in the country of origin, then the applicable grade name as established in Column II of Tables I and II of SCHEDULE I.1** of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations
- Only Canadian product can bear a Canada grade name as established in Column III Tables I and II of SCHEDULE I.1** of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations
- When the size of produce is required by the Regulations to be shown on a label, it shall be shown immediately adjacent to the grade name in the same sized print as the grade name (Section 25 of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations)

**SCHEDULE I.1 of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations can be found at the following link: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._285/page-20.html

d) For imported product, the country of origin with the words "Product of (name of country)" or other words that clearly indicate the country in which the produce was grown must appear in close proximity to the grade name or net quantity declaration.

e) The identity and principal place of business of the person (individual, corporation, business, head office, distributor, importer, etc.) by or for whom the product was manufactured or produced for resale must be shown on any part of the food container except the bottom, in either French or English. The address should be complete enough for postal delivery within a reasonable delay.

f) For product marketed as organic product, the name of the certification body that has certified the product as organic is required (a list of Certification Bodies that have either: been accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to certify organic products; or recognized under an organic trade arrangement with a foreign competent authority under the Organic Products Regulations, 2009
can be found at the following link: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/organic-products/certification-and-verification/certification-bodies/eng/1327860541218/1327860730201)

 **g)** Other information may be required, depending on the nature of the food or the type of claims being made on the container.

- If health claims or nutrient content claims are made on a container, nutrition labelling requirements must be considered. For further information please refer to Chapter 5 of the *Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising* at the following link: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/tab5e.shtml
- If product has been irradiated please see the labelling requirements at Section 2.14.1 of the Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising (http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/guide-to-food-labelling-and-advertising/eng/1300118951990/1300118996556). Please note: currently the only fresh produce approved for irradiation and sale in Canada, are fresh onions or potatoes -to inhibit sprouting.

 **h)** For allergen labelling information please see General Guidance above. [This may apply to table grapes (containing sulphites when 10ppm or more) or produce with a protective coating (containing a priority allergen or a gluten source)]

**MINIMUM LETTER HEIGHT**

All information required by the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations* to be shown on the labels of produce shall be shown in print that is at least 1.6 mm (1/16 inch) in height (Ref: Section 12 of the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations*) except the following:

The declaration of net quantity, the grade name, the registration number of the registered establishment (if applicable) ***, and the country of origin ***, and the country of origin ***, shall be shown in **bold-face type**. The minimum height of letters and numerical quantities (height in this case means, the height of an upper case letter where words appear in upper case; and the height of the lower case letter “o” where words appear in lower case or in a combination of upper and lower case), is governed by the area of the principal display surface of the container and is summarized in the following table:

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**The registration number of the registered establishment is not required on these containers when the registration number is clearly marked and prominently affixed to the pallet of produce and where the numerals are shown in bold-face type and are not less than 3/4 inch (19.0 mm) in height. Please refer to the Exemptions under the Test Marketing Provision of the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations* at the following link: [http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/frefra/qual/tstmarkte.shtml](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/frefra/qual/tstmarkte.shtml)

RPC LABELLING
An ongoing national Test Market provides allowance for all required labelling including the declaration of net quantity, grade name, registration number and country origin to be shown in letters and numerals of not less than 1/16 of an inch (1.6 mm) on washable, reusable plastic containers (RPC's) used as master or shipping containers.

Please refer to the Exemptions under the Test Marketing Provision of the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations* at the following link: [http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/frefra/qual/tstmarkte.shtml](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/frefra/qual/tstmarkte.shtml)

DATE MARKING
Prepackaged products consisting of fresh fruits and vegetables are exempt from *durable life date* ("best-before" date) labelling.

If date marking (with "packaged on", "packed on" or other similar wording) is applied to a shipping or master container that is not offered for sale at retail, it does not have to meet the manner of declaring as prescribed in B.01.007 FDR *Food and Drug Regulations (FDR)* regulations for the *durable life date*. However if the date marking includes English words that can be translated, French translation and its equal prominence as outlined above still apply, to meet the language requirements for Quebec.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR MASTER CONTAINERS
Master containers need not be labelled with the required information referred to in a), c), d) and e) above, if the information is easily and clearly discernible on the inner container or packages without opening the outer container. (However any information that is provided on the master container must follow the guidelines above).

Master containers need not be marked with the net weight of the container.

GENERAL INFORMATION

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**
- *"Durable life"* is the period, starting on the day a food is packaged for retail sale, that the food will retain its normal wholesomeness, palatability and nutritional value, when it is stored under conditions appropriate for that product.
- A *shipping container* contains non-prepackaged, loose produce that is not destined for sale directly to consumers.
- A *master container* is an outer container in which containers of prepackaged produce which display a net quantity are packed.
• **Packaging date** is the date on which a food is placed for the first time in a package in which it will be offered for sale to a consumer

• “**Principal display panel**”* means that part of the label applied to all or part of the principal display surface;

• “**Principal display surface**”* of a package is the surface of a container that is displayed or visible under normal or customary conditions of sale or use [See 2, FFVR for complete definition].

*Please note: The terms “principal display panel” and “principal display surface” typically refer to the same area of a produce shipping or master container.

**REFERENCES**

**REGULATIONS:**

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND REGULATIONS (FDA and FDR):

CONSUMER PACKAGING AND LABELLING ACT AND REGULATIONS (CPLA and CPLR):

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE REGULATIONS (FFVR):
Exemptions under the Test Marketing Provision of the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulation*:

ORGANIC PRODUCTS REGULATIONS, 2009 (OPR 2009):

Equivalency Arrangements:

Organic Production Systems standards are available at the following link:

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY ACT 2001, ONTARIO REGULATION 119/11:
http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_110119_e.htm#BK29

LABEL REQUIREMENTS FOR PRODUCE IN ONTARIO - Ontario Regulation 119/11 – Info Sheet 2011:

**GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS:**

CANADIAN IMPORT, EXPORT AND INTERPROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES:

LABELLING GUIDE FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:
GUIDE TO FOOD LABELLING AND ADVERTISING:

FOOD ALLERGEN LABELLING:

**CASE LABEL SAMPLES**

### Lemon 4x2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lemon</th>
<th>Carton/Carton 140 Count/Comte Product of USA / Produit des É.-U.A.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citron</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(01) 10765321000081  
(10) 1125911003

### Apple – 4x2 – No Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apple/Pomme</th>
<th>12 x 1.36 kg  12 x 3 lb Product of USA / Produit des É.-U.A.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fuji/Fuji</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(01) 10765321080250  
(10) 11265318908
### Lemon 4x3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lemon</th>
<th>Carton/Carton 140 Count/Comte</th>
<th>Product of USA / Produit des É.-U.A.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citron</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Apple 4x3 with Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apple/Pomme</th>
<th>Product of USA / Produit des É.-U.A.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fuji/Fuji</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 12 x 1.36 kg Sac  
- 12 x 3 lb Bag  
- U.S. Extra Fancy  
- É.-U. Extra de fantaisie

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(01) 10765321000081  
(10) 1125911003

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(01) 10765321080250  
(10) 11265318908
Apple 4x3 - Field Layout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity Variety</th>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pack Style</td>
<td>Pack Size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade name, if applicable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(01)10765321080250
(10)11265318908

75 78

PLEASE NOTE:
CPMA makes every effort to ensure that accurate information is provided but cannot accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions no matter how caused, including but not limited to whether as a result of an error by CPMA or in change in policy by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. It is important that members consult the pertinent acts and regulations prior to developing its package and nutrition labels for the Canadian marketplace.

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