

Regulations Governing the Labeling of Ready-to-go Foods

1. Introduction:

As consumption patterns change, more people turn to convenience stores or supermarkets for ready-to-eat meals. If foods are packaged in containers or packages, they shall be labeled in accordance with Article 22 of the Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation and the Enforcement Rules of the same act. Otherwise, the name and place of origin of the product shall be labeled in accordance with Article 25 of the Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation.

To provide consumers with more information and protect their rights and interests, manufacturers are encouraged to reveal more information regarding loose packed products.

2. Scope of application: Raw or cooked foods that are refrigerated between 0 and 18 °C, available uncooked or after heated. (Through heating method that is not intended for high temperature sterilization.) However, freshly baked foods, freshly cooked ready-to-eat foods, unprocessed fruit, vegetables, livestock, poultry and seafood are excluded.

3. Regulations governing the labeling of loose packed ready-to-go foods:

To provide consumers with more information, the following information shall be correctly specified in the packaging of the product. Please refer to the Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation and related regulations regarding the labeling methods.

- (1) Name of content: When there are two or more mixtures, they shall be indicated separately.
- (2) Net weight, volume or quantity.
- (3) Name of food additives: The name designated by the central competent authority shall be used. When two or more additives are added, they shall be specified separately.
- (4) Name, phone number and address of the responsible company.
- (5) Expiration date.
- (6) Other voluntary labeling items: Storage methods and conditions, cooking methods, nutrition facts, etc.

Note: Loose-packed ready-to-go foods refer to foods that meet one of the following three criteria and are within the scope of application stated in point 2.

1. Unpackaged.
2. Simple and temporary packaging without a distinguishable seal (the purpose of packaging is to make it easier for customers to take it instead of expanding the sales scope or extending the preservation period).
3. Packaging that has a distinguishable but not airtight seal. The packaging does not have the function of extending the preservation period either.