



Proposal for Partial Revision of ‘Labelling Standards for Foods’

Legislative Notice

November, 2008

Korea Food and Drug Administration

**Korea Food and Drug Administration
Public Announcement No. 2008-259**

The Korea Food and Drug Administration is proposing partial revision to the 'Labelling Standards for Foods' (Korea Food and Drug Administration Public Announcement No.2008-66, October 08, 2008). Thereupon, announcing as follows in accordance with Article 46 of the Administrative Procedures Act, in order to notify citizens the intent of the revision, reason for the revision and the key elements of the proposed revision beforehand and to collect public opinions.

November 11, 2008

Commissioner,
Korea Food and Drug Administration

**Notice for Proposed Partial Revision of
“Labelling Standards for Foods”**

1. Reason for the revision

The reason for this revision is to provide consumers correct information that will guarantee their selection of foods by improving and complementing loopholes in the present system. This proposal requires the statement “Dial 1399 without prefix to report consumer complaints” to be written on the containers or packages of food products for prompt report when consumers have complaints against foods or are harmed by foods. Measures to prevent a product that is made of complex ingredients to be indicated as if it was made of individual ingredients are also included in this proposal.

2. Key Elements

A. Improve labelling method for complex ingredients

[Attached document 1 of the proposal, Clause 1 Sub-clause A Item7 A)(2)]

- (1) At present, when labelling complex ingredients that are used for food products, for instance mixed spice (dadaegi), the ingredients of mixed spice can be broken down into individual ingredients and can be labelled as such. However the ingredients that were actually used for complex ingredients should be labelled and it is necessary to make this as an obligatory provision.
- (2) Mandate to label the name of complex ingredient and names of its 5 or more largely used ingredients or constituent, except purified water, in parentheses when using complex ingredient.
- (3) Expect to deliver consumers correct information.

B. Mandate to label phone number to report consumer complaints

[Attached document 1 of the proposal, Clause 1 Sub-clause A Item 10 J) Added]

- (1) “Dial 1399 without prefix to report consumer complaints” must be written on the containers or packages of food products for prompt report when consumers have complaints against food or are harmed by food.
- (2) Expect to provide consumers safe foods by encouraging prompt report on illegal foods or substandard foods and responding quickly to the report.

3. Presenting written opinion

Any group or individuals who have an opinion about this administrative notice for (Proposed) Partial Revision of Labelling Standards for Foods are encouraged to present written opinion to the commissioner of the Korea Food and Drug Administration (Postal Code: 122-704, Address: 194 Tongilro, Eunpyeong -gu, Seoul, CC: Food Safety Policy Division Phone 02-380-1726~7, Fax 02-388-6396) by December 02, 2008. The written opinion should contain the following:

- A. Opinions about the advance notice (Whether you are for or against it, and the reasoning)
- B. Your name (For groups, the name of the group and name of the representative), address and phone number
- C. Other references

Korea Food and Drug Administration
Advance Notice No. 2008-259

Korea Food and Drug Administration is notifying the partial revision of Labelling Standards for Foods in line with Article 10 of the Food Sanitation Act as follows.

November 11, 2008

Commissioner,
Korea Food and Drug Administration

**Proposed Partial Revisions of
Labelling Standards for Foods**

Revise a part of Labelling Standards for Foods as follows.

In the attached document 1 of the proposal, change Clause 1 Sub-clause A Item 7) A) as follows, rescind (1) in Item 7)C) of the same Sub-clause and add J) to Item 10) of the same Sub-clause.

A) Labelling for foods should be carried out as follows.

- (1) Every ingredient used to produce or process the food must be indicated (Purified water, which would not remain in the end product, is excluded. The same shall apply hereinafter) in the order of contained quantity. However, the names of main ingredients that were defined in 'Norm and standards of food' in line with Article 7 of the Act can be indicated first, and the ingredients that weigh under 2% of the total ingredients can be indicated without following the order of contained quantity.
 - (2) When complex ingredients have been used, the name shall be indicated along with the names of its 5 or more largely used ingredients or constituents except purified water in parentheses. However, if a food additive was used and has an effect upon the complex ingredient, the name of the additive shall be indicated.
- J) "Dial 1399 without prefix to report consumer complaints" shall be written on the containers or packages of food products for prompt report when consumers have complaints against food or are harmed by food.

Bylaws

Article 1 (Enforcement date) This notice shall take effect on the date the notice was announced.

Article 2 (Transitional measures) The food products that are same as the ones which had been produced or processed or sold or imported by persons who were licensed or registered for business at the time of this notice came into effect complying with the previous labelling standards, the previous standards can be applied until July 30, 2010. In this case, products that have been shipped for importation are included in 'had imported food products'.

Comparison Table of New vs. Old Provisions

Current	Proposed
<p>[Attached Document 1]</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Detailed labelling Standards for Foods</u> (Article 9 related)</p> <p>1. General standards for foods</p> <p>A. Foods (Including imported foods)</p> <p>1) ~ 6) (Omitted)</p> <p>7) Name of ingredients and contained quantity</p> <p>A) <u>Every ingredient used to produce or process the food must be indicated (Purified water, which would not remain in the end product, is excluded. The same shall apply hereinafter) in the order of contained quantity. However, the names of the main ingredients that were defined in norm and standards of food in line with Article 7 of the Act can be indicated first, and the ingredients that weigh under 2% of the total ingredients can be indicated without following the order of contained quantity.</u></p>	<p>[Attached Document 1]</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Detailed labelling Standards for Foods</u> (Article 9 related)</p> <p>1. General standards for foods</p> <p>A. Foods (Including imported foods)</p> <p>1) ~ 6) (The same as at present)</p> <p>7) Name of ingredient and contained quantity</p> <p>A) <u>Labelling foods should be carried out as follows.</u> (1) <u>Every ingredient used to produce or process the food must be indicated (Purified water, which would not remain in the end product, is excluded. The same shall apply hereinafter) in the order of contained quantity. However, the names of the main ingredients that were defined in ‘Norm and standards of food ‘ in line with Article 7 of the Act can be indicated first, and the ingredients that weigh under 2% of the total ingredients can be indicated without following the order of contained quantity.</u> (2) <u>When complex ingredients have been used, the name shall be indicated along with the names of its 5 or more largely used ingredients or constituents except purified water in parentheses. However, if a food</u></p>

<p>B) (Omitted)</p> <p>C) For the case which falls one of the followings can label as below regardless the provisions A) and B).</p> <p>(1) <u>When complex ingredients have been used, the name shall be indicated along with the names of its 5 or more largely used ingredients or constituents except purified water in parentheses. However, if a food additive was used and it has an effect upon the complex ingredient, the name of the additive shall be indicated.</u></p> <p>(2) ~ (11) (Omitted)</p> <p>D) ~ F) (Omitted)</p> <p>8) ~ 9) (Omitted)</p> <p>10) Other matters to indicate A) ~ I) (Omitted)</p> <p><u><Added></u></p>	<p><u>additive was used and has an effect upon the complex ingredient, the name of additive shall be indicated.</u></p> <p>B) (The same as at present)</p> <p>C) ----- ----- ----- -----.</p> <p><u><Rescinded></u></p> <p>(2) ~ (11) (The same as at present)</p> <p>D) ~ F) (The same as at present)</p> <p>8) ~ 9) (The same as at present)</p> <p>10) Other matters to indicate A) ~ I) (The same as at present)</p> <p><u>J) “Dial 1399 without prefix to report consumer complaints” shall be written on the containers or packages of food products for prompt report when consumers have complaints against food or are harmed by food.</u></p>
---	--