

















IRRADIATED FOOD LABELLING

How should it be labelled in Asia?



Foods subject to irradiation may be of food safety or health concern in some countries. In general, many countries in Asia require a statement that imply that the food has undergone irradiation and/or the international Radura symbol. This report aims to provide a summary of the labelling requirements for irradiated food in Asia. The requirements are generally similar throughout Asia, with few exceptions seen in India, Japan and Philippines, which have additional labelling requirements.

ASIA AT A GLANCE

Labels Required	Countries
Mandatory Statement of Irradiated Food only	      
Mandatory Radura Symbol only	
Mandatory Statement of Irradiated Food + Radura Symbol	       

RADURA SYMBOL

The Radura symbol (Figure 1) is recognised internationally as a symbol for irradiated food.



Figure 1 Radura symbol

BRUNEI

The importation or sale of irradiated food is prohibited unless the importer obtains an Irradiated Food License issued by the Director General of Health services.

This license is subject to the conditions required under Provision 44 of the Public Health (Food) Regulations, (R1 Chapter 182)¹ which dictates that:

- Such ionizing radiation has been conducted in accordance with the CODEX Recommended International Code of Practice for Operation of Radiation Facilities Used for Treatment of Foods;
- Irradiated food meets the CODEX General Standards for Irradiated Foods
- The packaging of the irradiated food needs to be labelled with the statement (in English or Malay language and letters not less than 3mm in height);
“TREATED WITH IONISING IRRADIATION” or “IRRADIATED (Name of food)”
- These conditions apply to both food items treated wholly by irradiation and foods that contain ingredients (raw or otherwise) which has been irradiated

CAMBODIA

Food that has been treated with ionising radiation shall be labelled with:²

- A written statement indicating the treatment
- The international food irradiation symbol

Food that uses irradiated ingredients should also be labelled with a statement.

¹ Brunei Food Law. (2001). Attorney General’s Chambers. Retrieved from:
http://www.agc.gov.bn/AGC%20Images/LAWS/ACT_PDF/Cap182subRg1.pdf

² Cambodian Standard of Food Labelling. (2000). Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy. Retrieved from:
http://www.cambodiaip.gov.kh/DocResources/fd2f5db5-5b83-4886-b471-40c33d9ed20d_c786a043-b88d-4f64-9429-60a330efdc5f-en.pdf

CHINA

Food that is allowed to be irradiated should be covered by the food scope specified in GB 14891 series.³

Irradiated food should be labelled with:

- “辐照食品” near the name of the food
- The international Radura symbol

Food that uses irradiated ingredients should be labelled in the ingredients list.

Details with regards to the irradiation facility, date, and amount of radiation treated and batch number are also needed.


HONG KONG

Every container containing irradiated food shall be clearly and legibly marked with the words "IRRADIATED" or "TREATED WITH IONISING RADIATION" in English capital lettering and "辐照食品" in Chinese characters.⁴

INDIA

Food that has been treated with ionizing radiation shall carry a written statement indicating the treatment in close proximity to the name of the food.⁵

All packages of radiation processed food shall bear the Radura logo in green colour with the following declaration:

PROCESSED BY IRRADIATION METHOD DATE OF IRRADIATION

LICENSE NO of Irradiation Unit..... PURPOSE OF IRRADIATION.....

INDONESIA

³ China Irradiated Food Regulations. (2014). Ministry of Health. Retrieved from: http://www.classe-export.info/assistance/ANIA_ALLIANCE7/BOULANGERIE/CHINE/ETIQUETAGE/3-3-12_Chinois_GB14891_Irradiated-Foods2014.pdf

⁴ Safety and Labelling of Irradiated Food. (2010). Centre for Food Safety. Retrieved from: https://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/multimedia/multimedia_pub/multimedia_pub_fsf_42_02.html

⁵ Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling). (2011). FSSAI. Retrieved from: https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Packaging_Labelling_Regulations.pdf

Irradiated food is regulated under [Regulation No. 3 of 2018](#), that stipulates the labelling requirements. Companies shall also refer to the [Guideline on Good Practices for Food Irradiation](#) published under Regulation No. 18 of 2019.

All food that is irradiated must be labelled with the following:

- Word “IRADIASI” inscribed after the name and type of food to indicate food is irradiated⁶
- “TIDAK BOLEH DIIRADIASI ULANG” should inscribed to indicate that food should not be irradiated again
- The date, month and year of irradiation
- The name of the country where irradiation is performed
- Logo for Food Irradiation
- In case specific ingredient of a product is derived from irradiated source, it shall bear the word “iradiasi” right after the name of the ingredient

JAPAN

Irradiation is strictly not allowed in Japan, except in the case of potatoes, which may be irradiated but must be labelled.⁷

An example of the label is as follows:



KOREA

Foods subjected to labelling include:⁸

- Food that is permitted to be irradiated that is found in Article 7 of the Act
- Food that used irradiated ingredient

Food should be labelled with:

- A phrase that indicates that the food has been treated with irradiation
- The Radura symbol

⁶ Label Pangan Olahan. (2018). JDIH BADANPOM. Retrieved from:

<http://jdi.h.pom.go.id/showpdf.php?u=Xvat1MwA1KiGebXO6ZpkMU1x0Xfjp%2F0mVjBDbQGcf%3D>

⁷ Japan 2018 FAIRS Report. (2018). GAIN. Retrieved from:

https://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Report_Tokyo_Japan_2-5-2019.pdf

⁸ Food Labelling Standards. (2016). Ministry of Food and Drug Safety. Retrieved from:

https://www.mfds.go.kr/eng/brd/m_15/view.do?seq=70814

LAOS

There should be a statement or declaration indicating that an ingredient has been treated with ionising radiation.⁹

MALAYSIA

A food containing an irradiated ingredient which makes up $\geq 5\%$ of the total content of the food is considered irradiated.¹⁰

Irradiated food should be labelled with:

- The statement – “TREATED WITH IONISING RADIATION”; “TREATED WITH IRRADIATION”; “TREATED BY IRRADIATION” OR “IRRADIATED” in at least 10-point lettering
- The Radura symbol

Milk, formulated milk powder for children, infant formula, follow-up formula, canned food for infants and children, processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children and the ingredients used in making these products shall not have been treated by ionising radiation.¹¹

MYANMAR

Irradiated food should be labelled according to CODEX guideline.

PHILIPPINES

Food should be labelled with:¹²

- Internationally recognized Radura symbol; and
- Statement “treated by irradiation” or its equivalent

All food labelling should meet any additional requirements established by the relevant authorities.

Irradiated food for wholesale or distribution to retailers shall be labelled with sufficient information to identify the product and shall be accompanied by documents that contain the following:

⁹ Regulation on Labelling of Prepackaged Food (2009). Ministry of Health, Laos. Retrieved from:

https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/lao_e/WTACCLAO22_LEG_4.pdf

¹⁰ Information on Food Labelling Requirements in Malaysia. (2013). MFCA. Retrieved from:

<http://www.mfca.org.my/articles/Information%20on%20Food%20Labeling%20Requirements%20in%20Malaysia.pdf>

¹¹ Food Regulations 1985. (2018). Ministry of Health. Retrieved from:

<http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v6/xs/dl.php?filename=730b5042d10be434b44c3165d1ec588b.pdf>

¹² Labelling of Prepackaged Food Products. (2014). Philippines FDA. Retrieved from:

<https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/sites/default/files/PHL%202014%20Labeling%20of%20Prepackaged%20Food%20Products.pdf>

- a. Irradiation facility where the products were treated and its address
- b. License number of the facility and its validity period
- c. Date of irradiation
- d. Purpose of irradiation

SINGAPORE

The importation or sale of any food which has been exposed to ionising radiation is not allowed unless¹³:

- Such ionising radiation has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Codex Code of Practice for Radiation Processing of Food and the Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods; and
- Such irradiated food meets all the requirements of the Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods

Irradiated food and food containing irradiated ingredients shall be labelled:

- “TREATED WITH IONISING IRRADIATION” or “IRRADIATED (name of food)” in letters of not less than 3 mm height

TAIWAN

Food treated with radiation shall be labelled with the Radura symbol on the outer packaging.¹⁴

THAILAND

Labelling of irradiated foods shall display the following details¹⁵:

- Name and location of head office of food manufacturers and food radiation processor;
- The word “ผ่านการฉายรังสีแล้ว” (“irradiated”) or other words that convey the same meaning;
- The purpose of irradiation with the following clause “เพื่อ.....” (“For.....”) (specify the purpose of irradiation in the blank)
- The Radura symbol in close proximity to the name of the food
- Date, month and year of irradiation

If an irradiated food is used as an ingredient in another food or a single ingredient product is prepared from a raw material which has been irradiated, it shall be labelled “irradiated (name of ingredient)”.

Importers are required to provide the certificate of the establishment for irradiation processing for the imported irradiated food.

¹³ Food Regulations. (2019). Singapore Food Agency. Retrieved from: <https://www.sfa.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/food-regulations1.pdf>

¹⁴ Regulations Governing the Labelling of Irradiated Food. (2018). Taiwan FDA. Retrieved from: <https://www.fda.gov.tw/ENG/lawContent.aspx?cid=16&id=3015>

¹⁵ Re: Irradiated Food. (2010). Thailand FDA. Retrieved from: http://food.fda.moph.go.th/law/data/announ_moph/P-012-E.pdf

VIETNAM

Irradiated food shall be labelled with:¹⁶

- The phrase “irradiated food”; or
- The Radura symbol accepted by Vietnam

**This report is prepared by the FIA
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¹⁶ Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report. (2019) USDA GAIN Report. Retrieved from:
https://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Report/Hanoi_Vietnam_4-18-2019.pdf