

28.8.4 Date of minimum durability and special storage conditions

An indication of shelf life, typically in the format “Best Before”, followed by the date, together with any specific storage conditions necessary to achieve that shelf life, such as “Store in a cool and dry place”.

28.8.5 Batch code

Products must generally carry a batch code (lot mark) to aid traceability in the event of a problem. Date codes showing at least a day and month (in that order) may sometimes be used instead of batch codes. However, much traceability will be lost if the date code is only changed monthly rather than daily.

28.8.6 Business name and address

The name and address of the manufacturer, packer or seller.

28.8.7 Place of origin

The place of origin must always be given if its omission could mislead the purchaser about the true origin of the product.

28.8.8 Net quantity or weight

With the exception of the United States, the quantity is provided in metric units. A minimum height may be prescribed for the quantity declaration. In Europe, the “e-mark” may be applied to indicate that products are packed in accordance with the “average system”.

28.8.9 Nutrition information

Nutrition labelling was traditionally applied only where a nutrition or health claim was made. Governments are increasing favouring mandatory nutrition labelling as one of the tools to help halt rising levels of obesity. Labelling includes the typical amounts of energy expressed in kJ and/or kcal, protein, carbohydrate, sugars, fat, saturated fat, sodium or salt, and dietary fibre – per 100g and/or per serving. Front of pack labelling, which includes the percentage of the Guideline Daily Amount (Daily Value) may additionally be applied to help consumers make informed choices. Consumer and health promotion groups consider that such labelling schemes should also be colour-coded.

Conclusions

Legislation is complex and changes happen slowly only after protracted negotiations. Standards can be a barrier to innovation and many confectionery products are therefore made with substitute products – compounds – which are not subject to compositional standards (Chapter 19). Future legislative developments

will be driven by the need to reduce intakes of sugar and saturated fat, such as the regulation of sweeteners or novel ingredients with no history of safe use.

Further reading

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