

# Food labelling and packaging

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## Overview

To sell food and drink products, the label must be:

- clear and easy to read
- permanent
- easy to understand
- easily visible
- not misleading

You must show [certain basic information](/food-labelling-and-packaging/food-labelling-what-you-must-show) (/food-labelling-and-packaging/food-labelling-what-you-must-show) and [list the ingredients](/food-labelling-and-packaging/ingredients-list) (/food-labelling-and-packaging/ingredients-list). You might also have to show [certain warnings](/food-labelling-and-packaging/food-and-drink-warnings) (/food-labelling-and-packaging/food-and-drink-warnings).

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## Products sold loose or in catering businesses

If you run a catering business, you sell food loose or package it for sale in your shop, you only need to show:

- the name of the food
- if any of the ingredients have been irradiated, or have come from genetically modified sources
- [certain warnings \(/food-labelling-and-packaging/food-and-drink-warnings\)](/food-labelling-and-packaging/food-and-drink-warnings)
- any food additive you have added
- [allergen information \(/food-labelling-and-packaging/ingredients-list\)](/food-labelling-and-packaging/ingredients-list)

You must [show more information \(/guidance/meat-products-sell-them-legally-in-england\)](/guidance/meat-products-sell-them-legally-in-england) if you sell meat products loose.

## Food assurance schemes

You could also join voluntary food assurance schemes such as [Red Tractor](#)

<http://www.redtractor.org.uk/Home>) or [Lion Eggs \(http://www.lioneggs.co.uk\)](http://www.lioneggs.co.uk).

These schemes let customers know food has been produced to certain standards, for example on food safety or animal welfare.

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