

## Uniform Regulation for the Method of Sale of Commodities

### Preamble

The purpose of this regulation is to require accurate and adequate information about commodities so that purchasers can make price and quantity comparisons.

(Added 1989)

### Section 1. Food Products [NOTE 1, page 107]

#### 1.1. Berries and Small Fruits

**1.1.1. Definitions.** – “Small fruits” includes, but is not limited to, cherries, currants, and cherry tomatoes. “Berries” includes all fruit whose names end in the term “berry.”

(Added 1991)

*NOTE 1: Packages subject to this Section and the Federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act shall be labeled in units of the International System of Units (SI) and inch-pound systems of measure effective February 14, 1994, [except for seed (see Section 10.10.) and camera film and recording tape (see Section 11.22.), and as specified in the Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation under Section 11.32. SI Units, Exemptions for Consumer Commodities]. SI units may appear first.*

(Added 1982) (Amended 1990 and 1993)

**1.1.2. Methods of Sale.** – Berries and small fruits shall be offered and exposed for sale and sold by weight [NOTE 2, page 107] or by volume. If sold by volume, they must:

(Amended 1991)

- (a) be in measure containers that are either open or else covered by uncolored transparent lids or other wrappings that do not obscure the contents, and
- (b) have capacities per Section 1.1.2.(b)(1) or Section 1.1.2.(b)(2). When selling berries and small fruits by volume in measure containers, whether or not covered, the measure containers themselves shall not be packages for labeling purposes.
  - (1) SI Capacities – 250 milliliters, 500 milliliters, or 1 liter.  
(Added 1979) (Amended 1985)
  - (2) Inch-pound Capacities – ½ dry pint, 1 dry pint, or 1 dry quart.

*NOTE 2: When used in this regulation, the term “weight” means “mass.” (See paragraph I. in Section I, Introduction, of NIST Handbook 130 for an explanation of these terms.)*

**1.1.3. Marking Requirements for Shipping Containers.** – If two or more measure containers are placed in a shipping package, the crate or package shall show the number of measure containers and the quantity of contents of each.

(Added 1971) (Amended 1979, 1985, 1989, and 1991)

**1.2. Bread.** – Bread kept, offered, or exposed for sale, whether or not packaged or sliced, shall be sold by weight. The wrappers of bread that is sold and expressly represented at the time of sale as “stale bread” shall not be considered packages for labeling purposes.

(Added 1971) (Amended 1979, 1980, 1985, 1987, 1991, and 1992)

**1.3. Butter, Oleomargarine, Margarine, Butter-Like, and/or Margarine-Like Spreads.** – Shall be offered and exposed for sale and sold by weight. “Butter-like and/or margarine-like spreads” are those products that meet the Federal Standard of Identity for butter or margarine and oleomargarine, except that they contain less than 80 % fat and may contain other safe and suitable ingredients.

(Added 1971) (Amended 1979, 1985, 1986, and 1994)

**1.4. Flour, Corn Meal, and Hominy Grits.** – Wheat flour, whole wheat flour, graham flour, self-rising wheat flour, phosphated wheat flour, bromated flour, corn flour, corn meal, and hominy grits, whether enriched or not, shall be packaged, kept, offered, or exposed for sale and sold by weight.

(Amended 1994)

**1.5. Meat, Poultry, Fish, and Seafood.** [NOTE 3, page 108] – Shall be sold by weight, except that whole shellfish in the shell may be sold by weight, measure, and/or count. Shellfish are aquatic animals having a shell, such as mollusks (for example, scallops) or crustaceans (for example, lobster or shrimp).

(Amended 1988)

**1.6. Fluid Milk Products.** – All fluid milk products, including, but not limited to milk, lowfat milk, skim milk, cultured milks, and cream, shall be sold in terms of fluid volume.

(Amended 1995)

**1.7. Other Milk Products.** – Cottage cheese, cottage cheese products, and other milk products that are solid, semi solid, viscous, or a mixture of solid and liquid, as defined in the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance of the U.S. Public Health Service, as amended in 1965, shall be sold in terms of weight.

**1.8. Pickles.** – The declaration of net quantity of contents on pickles and pickle products, including relishes but excluding one or two whole pickles in a transparent wrapping, which may be declared by count, shall be expressed in terms of liquid measure. Sales of pickles from bulk may be by count.

**1.9. Advertising and Price Computing of Bulk Food Commodities.**

**1.1.1. Total Price Computing.** – The price of food commodities sold from bulk by weight shall be computed in terms of whole units of weight (i.e., grams, kilograms, pounds, ounces, etc.) and not in common or decimal fractions.

**1.1.2. Unit Price Advertising.** – The price of food commodities sold from bulk by weight shall be advertised or displayed in terms of whole weight units of kilograms or pounds only, not in common or decimal fractions or in ounces. A supplemental declaration is permitted in print no larger than the whole unit price. This supplemental declaration may be expressed in common or decimal fractions or in ounces.

**1.10. Generic Terms for Meat Cuts.** – A declaration of identity for meat cuts shall be limited to generic terms, such as those listed in the Uniform Retail Meat Identity Standards.

The following abbreviations may be used:

BAR B Q	Barbecue	POT-RST	Pot Roast
BI	Bone In	RND	Round
BNLS	Boneless	RST	Roast
DBLE	Double	SHLDR	Shoulder
LGE	Large	SQ	Square
N.Y. (NY)	New York	STK	Steak
PK	Pork	TRMD	Trimmed

(Added 1976)

**1.11. Sale of Meat by Carcass, Side, or Primal Cut.** – The seller of a carcass, side, quarter, or primal cut on a gross or hanging weight basis shall provide to the buyer a written statement giving the following information at the times indicated:

(Amended  
1985)

**1.11.1. Prior to Delivery.**

- (a) the name and address of the seller (firm);
- (b) the date of the contract;
- (c) the name and address of the buyer;
- (a) the total net weight (hanging weight) of the carcass, side, or primal cut prior to cutting or processing;
- (e) the USDA quality grade and yield grade of the meat to be supplied, if so represented;
- (f) the price per pound for each species (not including any inducements) and the total price of the sale order;
- (g) the estimated cutting loss on the order in terms of percentage and weight (e.g., 40 %, 72.5 kg [160 lb]);
- (h) a list by name and estimated count of each cut to be derived from each primal source;
- (i) additional costs, listed separately, for cutting, wrapping, freezing, and finance charges, if any; and
- (j) that the buyer may keep the cutting loss. (Added 1985)

**1.11.2. At the Time of Delivery.**

- (a) the name and address of the buyer and seller;
- (b) the date of delivery;
- (c) the total net weight of the meat delivered;
- (d) a list, by name and count, of each cut derived from each primal cut; and
- (e) a separate indication of the quantity of any meat or other commodity(s) received by the purchaser as an inducement in connection with the purchase of the carcass, side, or primal cut.

**1.11.3. Exemptions.** – This subsection shall not apply to the sale of any carcass, side, quarter, or primal cut of meat that individually or collectively has a gross or hanging weight of 22.6 kg (50 lb) or less.

(Added 1985)

**1.11.4. Right of Cancellation.** – The buyer shall have the right to cancel any carcass, side, quarter, or primal cut meat contract until midnight of the third business day after the day on which the buyer executed the contract or after the day on which the seller provided the buyer with a fully executed copy of the contract, whichever is later.

**1.12. Ready-to-Eat Food.**

**1.12.1. Definition - Ready-to-Eat Food.** – Restaurant style food offered or exposed for sale, whether in restaurants, supermarkets, or similar food service establishments, that is ready for consumption, though not necessarily on the premises where sold. Ready-to-Eat Food does not include sliced luncheon products, such as meat, poultry, or cheese when sold separately.

*NOTE: The sale of an individual piece of fresh fruit (like an apple, banana, or orange) is allowed by count.*

(Added 2004)

**1.12.2. Methods of Sale.** – Ready-to-Eat Food sold from bulk or in single servings packed on the premises may be sold by weight, measure, or count (count includes servings).

**2.4. Fireplace and Stove Wood.** – For the purpose of this regulation, this section shall apply to the sale of all wood, natural and processed, for use as fuel or flavoring.

**2.4.1. Definitions.**

**2.4.1.1. Fireplace and stove wood.** – Any kindling, logs, boards, timbers, or other wood, natural or processed, split or not split, advertised, offered for sale, or sold for use as fuel.

**2.4.1.2. Cord.** – The amount of wood that is contained in a space of 128 ft<sup>3</sup> when the wood is ranked and well stowed. For the purpose of this regulation, “ranked and well stowed” shall be construed to mean that pieces of wood are placed in a line or row, with individual pieces touching and parallel to each other, and stacked in a compact manner.

**2.4.1.3. Representation.** – This shall be construed to mean any advertisement, offering, invoice, or the like that pertains to the sale of fireplace or stove wood.

**2.4.1.4. Flavoring chips.** – Any kindling, logs, boards, timbers, or other natural or processed, split or unsplit wood that is advertised, offered for sale, or sold for flavoring smoked or barbecued foods.

**2.3.2. Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.**

(L&R, 1979, p. 176; 1980; 1982, p. 152; 2008)

**Guideline**

Recognizing the difficulty faced by consumers when more than one method of sale is employed in the same outlet for the same product, noncomparable methods of sale (e.g., weight and measure) for the same produce item in the same outlet should be minimized.

This guideline applies to all sales of fruits and vegetables. There are two tables, one for specific commodities and one for general commodity groups. Search the specific list first to find those commodities that either do not fit into any of the general groups or have unique methods of sale. If the item is not listed, find the general group in the second table. The item may be sold by any method of sale marked with an X.

(Amended 2008)

Method of Retail Sale for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Specific Commodity					
Commodity	Weight	Count	Head or Bunch	Dry Measure (any size)	Dry Measure (1 dry qt or larger)
Artichokes	X	X			
Asparagus	X		X		
Avocados		X			
Bananas	X	X			
Beans (green, yellow, etc.)	X				X
Brussels Sprouts (loose)	X				
Brussels Sprouts (on stalk)			X		
Cherries	X			X	X
Coconuts	X	X			
Corn on the Cob		X			X
Dates	X				
Eggplant	X	X			
Figs	X				
Grapes	X				
Melons (cut in pieces)	X				
Mushrooms (small)	X			X	X
Mushrooms (portobello, large)	X	X			
Okra	X				
Peas	X				X
Peppers (bell and other varieties)	X	X			X
Pineapples	X	X			
Rhubarb	X		X		
Tomatoes (except cherry/grape)	X	X			X

Method of Retail Sale for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables General Commodity Groups					
Commodity	Weight	Count	Head or Bunch	Dry Measure (any size)	Dry Measure (1 dry qt or larger)
Berries and Cherry/Grape Tomatoes	X			X	
Citrus Fruits (oranges, grapefruits, lemons, etc.)	X	X			X
Edible Bulbs (onions [spring or green], garlic, leeks, etc.)	X	X	X		X
Edible Tubers (Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, ginger, horseradish, etc.)	X				X
Flower Vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, etc.)	X		X		
Gourd Vegetables (cucumbers, squash, melons, etc.)	X	X			X
Leaf Vegetables (lettuce, cabbage, celery, etc.)	X		X		
Leaf Vegetables (parsley, herbs, loose greens)	X		X	X	
Pitted Fruits (peaches, plums, prunes, etc.)	X	X			X
Pome Fruits (apples, pears, mangoes, etc.)	X	X			X
Root Vegetables (turnips, carrots, radishes, etc.)	X		X		

## Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation

### Section 2. Definitions

**2.1. Package.** – Except as modified by Section 1. Application, the term “package,” whether standard package or random package, means any commodity:

- (a) enclosed in a container or wrapped in any manner in advance of wholesale or retail sale; or
- (b) whose weight [*NOTE 1*, page 61] or measure has been determined in advance of wholesale or retail sale. An individual item or lot of any commodity on which there is marked a selling price based on an established price per unit of weight or of measure shall be considered a package or packages.  
(Amended 1988 and 1991)

*NOTE 1: When used in this regulation, the term “weight” means “mass.” (See paragraph I. in Section I., Introduction, of NIST Handbook 130 for an explanation of these terms.)*

### Section 3. Declaration of Identity: Consumer Package

**3.1. Declaration of Identity: Consumer Package.** – A separate declaration of identity [*NOTE 2*, page 64] on a consumer package shall appear on the principal display panel and shall not be misleading or deceptive. The identity shall be in terms of:

- (a) the name specified in or required by any applicable federal or state law or regulation or, in the absence of this;
- (b) the common or usual name or, in the absence of this;

(c) the generic name or other appropriate description, including a statement of function (such as “cleaning powder”).

## **Section 5. Declaration of Responsibility: Consumer and Nonconsumer Packages**

Any package kept, offered, or exposed for sale, or sold at any place other than on the premises where packed shall specify conspicuously on the label of the package the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor. The name shall be the actual corporate name, or, when not incorporated, the name under which the business is conducted. The address shall include street address, city, state (or country if outside the United States), and ZIP Code (or the mailing code, if any, used in countries other than the United States); however, the street address may be omitted if this is shown in a current city directory or telephone directory.

If a person manufactures, packs, or distributes a commodity at a place other than his principal place of business, the label may state the principal place of business in lieu of the actual place where the commodity was manufactured or packed or is to be distributed, unless such statement would be misleading. Where the commodity is not manufactured by the person whose name appears on the label, the name shall be qualified by a phrase that reveals the connection such person has with such commodity, such as “Manufactured for and packed by \_\_\_\_\_,” “Distributed by \_\_\_\_\_,” or any other wording of similar import that expresses the facts.

**6.2. Largest Whole Unit.** – Where this regulation requires that the quantity declaration be in terms of the largest whole unit, the declaration shall, with respect to a particular package, be in terms of the largest whole unit of weight or measure with any remainder expressed (following the requirements of Section 6.5.2. (a) Fractions and Section 6.11. Fractions):

- (a) **SI Units.** – in decimal fractions of such largest whole unit.
- (b) **Inch-pound Units.**
  - (1) in common or decimal fractions of such largest whole unit; or
  - (2) in the next smaller whole unit or units with any further remainder in terms of common or decimal fractions of the smallest unit present in the quantity declaration.

**6.3. Net Quantity.** – A declaration of net quantity of the commodity in the package, exclusive of wrappers and any other material packed with such commodity (except as noted in Section 10.3. Aerosols and Similar Pressurized Containers), shall appear on the principal display panel of a consumer package and, unless otherwise specified in this regulation (see Sections 6.6. through 6.9. Prescribed Units), shall be in terms of the largest whole unit.

**6.3.1. Use of “Net Mass” or “Net Weight.”** – A quantity declaration may stand alone [e.g., “200 g (7 oz)” or “1 lb (453 g)”] or may include the term “net mass” or “net weight” either preceding or following the declaration. The term “net” by itself may be used on food labels. However, the quantity of contents shall always declare the net quantity of contents even when such terms are not used.

**6.4. Terms: Weight, Measure, Volume, or Count.** – The declaration of the quantity of a particular commodity shall be expressed in terms of:

- (a) weight if the commodity is solid, semisolid, viscous, or a mixture of solid and liquid;
- (b) volume measure if the commodity is liquid or dry, if the commodity is dry;
- (c) linear measure or area; or
- (d) numerical count.

**6.12. Supplementary Quantity Declarations.** – The required quantity declaration may be supplemented by one or more declarations of weight, measure, or count, such declaration appearing other than on a principal display panel. Such supplemental statement of quantity of contents shall not include any term qualifying a unit of weight, measure, or count that tends to exaggerate the amount of commodity contained in the package (e.g., “giant” quart, “larger” liter, “full” gallon, “when packed,” “minimum,” or words of similar import).

**6.14. Qualification of Declaration Prohibited.** – In no case shall any declaration of quantity be qualified by the addition of the words “when packed,” “minimum,” or “not less than” or any words of similar import (e.g., “approximately”), nor shall any unit of weight, measure, or count be qualified by any term (such as “jumbo,” “giant,” “full,” or the like) that tends to exaggerate the amount of commodity.