

and it must appear on the same panel as the ingredient statement. (Note: The street address may be omitted if it appears in a current city or telephone directory. The name of the province and Canada must be spelt out in full ; and the print or type size must be at least one sixteenth (1/16) of an inch based on the lower case letter "o".)

9. The spelling on the label must conform to American spelling.
10. The printed matter on the label should contrast sufficiently with the artwork/background colour to make it clear, conspicuous and easy to read.
11. The appropriate country of origin marking must appear conspicuously on the label, e.g. "Product of Canada". (Note: This is a U.S. Customs requirement, distinct from FDA labelling requirements.)

If you omit or incorrectly apply any of these stipulations, it is likely that your label will not meet FDA label requirements.

(Note: Exporters of processed foods to the United States will be subject to new mandatory labelling requirements with respect to nutrition as a result of the U.S. Nutritional Labelling and Education Act of 1990. Regulations are being developed by the FDA and it is expected that the regulations will be fully implemented by early 1993.); contact the USFDA directly for the most up-to-date information.

U.S. Regulatory Agencies for Agri-Food Products

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the importation of almost all foodstuffs into the United States, except red meats and poultry which is the responsibility of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and alcoholic beverages which are covered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF).

The importation into the United States of food products (including beverages) is subject to the provisions and regulations of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Under these regulations, all imported foods are subject to inspection by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at the time of entry into the U.S.

United States Department of Agriculture

Food Products which contain meat or meat products are subject to regulations established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Under the USDA regulations, all meat product labels must be approved by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (A.P.H.I.S) prior to importation into the United States.

It is also required that all meat shipments originate from a Canadian federally inspected establishment, and be accompanied by a Canadian Health Certificate and a 410 document with a complete description of the product contained in the shipment. Section 11.7.3 of the USDA's Meat Hygiene Manual contains 39 pages of instructions for exporting meat to the United States. All documents must be accurate and error free. Application for label approval of meat products must be submitted directly to the USDA before you begin to ship. For labelling assistance you may submit your label samples to the following address:

Labelling and Packaging Staff
United States Department of Agriculture
PQ Box 7406, Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044

A U.S. Customs broker can also submit the application. For certain products there may be additional requirements at the state level which also have to be met. Therefore it may be advisable to have the products presented to state authorities at the same time.

There is no license, certification or approval required or available for most food products. Specific exceptions include: alcoholic beverages, meat products and thermally