

New U.S. Labelling Laws for Processed Food Exports

Exporters of processed foods to the United States will be subject to new nutritional labelling requirements.

The new laws are a result of the U.S. Nutritional Labeling and Education Act passed in November of 1990—the Act amends the U.S. Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and dictates that nutritional labelling will be required for almost all food products, including imports.

The legislation therefore will affect Canadian processed food exports to the United States. External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) is now investigating the potential effects.

Regulations pursuant to the legislation will be developed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) over the next year and industry will have to comply with all parts of the new regulations in early 1993.

It is important to note, however, that different aspects of the legislation are being phased in at different times over the next two years. Amendments occurring under the section dealing with in-

gredients will be effective November 8, 1991.

This will require the declaration of the percentage of juice in fruit and vegetable juices, the listing of certified colours in foods and the ingredients in standardized foods. The FDA is currently drafting the regulations for these issues.

The FDA is also required to establish voluntary nutritional information guidelines for food retailers covering the 20 varieties of fresh fruits, vegetables and fish most frequently consumed.

If FDA determines that after 12 months retailers have not been in substantial compliance with the guidelines, it may set up a mandatory nutritional labelling program for such products.

The FDA does not have jurisdiction over meat and poultry products. So for the most part these products, which are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are not affected by the legislation.

The Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) established several technical working groups, which are supervised by EAITC,

to facilitate trade in agricultural, food and beverage goods. The Working Group on Packaging and Labelling is working toward equivalent requirements for matters such as nutrition labelling, ingredient listing or declaration and labelling terminology and definitions.

This working group is soliciting comments on the new U.S. legislation. Of particular interest is the potential impact of the new mandatory labelling requirements on Canadian food product exporters.

For information or to make comments, contact your association or contact directly Ms. K. Gourlie, Chairperson, Working Group on Packaging and Labelling, 16th Floor, Zone 8, Place du Portage, Phase I, 50 Victoria St., Hull, Quebec K1A 0C9. Tel.: (613) 953-3187. Fax.: (613) 953-2311.

Contracts Awarded

Canadian-made transit locomotives will power Southern California's growing metropolitan commuter rail system. The Los Angeles County Transit Commission recently purchased 17 F59PH locomotives, worth US \$2 million each, from London-based GM Canada. The order, which included options for 15 additional units, was worth more than \$60 million. Slated for delivery in 1992, the locomotives will be part of a 30-year, multi-billion dollar public transit initiative, aimed at resolving the area's enormous traffic problems and improving air quality.

A program launched by San Francisco Municipal Railway to replace its fleet of 40' trolley coaches promises good sales for New Flyer. Last September, the Winnipeg firm was awarded a \$22.8 million contract for 35 of its 60' articulated trolley coaches, and is hoping to replace all of the 345 40' units it sold to the railway in 1976.

Show on Hazardous Materials Management

Atlantic City — Space is limited, but qualified Canadian companies still have an opportunity to participate in the External Affairs and International Trade Canada-sponsored pavilion at HazMat'91.

The Hazardous Materials Management International Conference and Exhibition, being held June 12 to 14, is a showcase for products and services that are applicable to a broad range of industries, from general manufacturing to the chemicals sector.

Among the items to be displayed at this year's HazMat are spill containment/clean up, emergency response, and service/treatment disposal products and services; protective clothing; laboratories; water pollution control systems; and computer systems.

Last year at HazMat more than 440 companies exhibited their products and services to more than 10,000 attendees — industrial executives, managers, environmental engineers and government officials. The Canadian pavilion participants anticipated sales over a 12-month period to exceed \$5 million.

Canadian companies interested in being a part of HazMat'91 — this year's participant fee has increased to \$1,800 due to new cost recovery measures — should contact Jessie Inman or Donald Marsan, United States Trade and Tourism Development Division (UTO), External Affairs and International Trade Canada, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa K1A 0G2. Fax: (613) 990-9119.