

- 2.8 any other information which may assist in determining the appropriate tariff classification of the article.
3. Ruling requests must contain no more than five(5) items in order to be accepted.

If the ruling request does not provide sufficient information, a letter will be sent to the requester within three(3) calendar days detailing the additional information needed. Otherwise, the U.S. Customs Service will have thirty (30) days to issue the ruling.

Requests for tariff classification rulings should be addressed to:

Regional Commissioner of Customs
New York Region
Attention: Classification Ruling Requests
New York, New York
10048;

or to any Area or District office of the Customs Service.

Import, Product and Packaging Requirements

It is a general rule of the United States Customs Laws that each imported article produced abroad be legibly marked in a conspicuous place with the name of the country of origin in English. This procedure guarantees that the ultimate purchaser in the United States knows the country in which the article was manufactured or produced.

Labelling Requirements

There are five pieces of mandatory information that should be displayed on the packaging of a food product.

1. Common or usual name
2. Net quantity in the U.S. measurement system
3. Name and place of business or

- distributor
4. List of ingredients by common or usual name in descending order of predominance
5. Country of origin*

* Note: This is a requirement of U.S. Customs and not of the FDA.

The location, size and spacing of lettering are important to products destined for the retail market. These requirements (U.S. Fair Packaging and Labelling Act), are described in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Parts 100-169.

Although products may have been exported into the U.S. for a number of years, this is no substitute for obtaining an informal comment from the FDA. Moreover, test shipments are no assurance that the FDA examined the product or labelling for conformity.

In addition to federal regulations, the exporter is well advised to ensure that there are no state or local rules that may affect the product or packaging. For example, the State of Washington requires that enriched flour be used in the production of pasta, and that it be so stated in the labelling.

It is important that the new importer understand that the FDA does not give label approval. As mentioned earlier, it is a regulatory agency and label reviews before entry are not part of its mandate. The FDA will, however, provide the importer with an informal comment.

There is no charge for obtaining an informal comment or shipment examination by the FDA. In fact, the cost of samples for examination, if not found in violation, will be reimbursed.

Should goods be found in violation of the law, a Notice of Detention and Hearing will be issued. The importer must either bring the shipment into compliance with the law or export the shipment; if not the products will be detained and/or destroyed.

Packaging and labelling fall under the U.S. Fair