Nutrition Labeling and Claims Regulations

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Legal basis of the current food labeling in Vietnam

- Decree No 89/2006/ND-CP of the Government on the goods labeling laid down content, recording and state management of labeling for goods circulated in Vietnam whilst providing the provisions of foods labeling in general, in the absence of rules regarding nutrition labeling as well as nutrition declaration referring to foods.

1. The foods labeling must bear the mandatory contents as following:

   - For foods and beverages (excluding alcohol):
     - The name of the food;
     - The name and address of organizations and individuals responsible for foods;
     - Origin of foods;
     - Quantities;
     - Date of manufacture;
     - Expiration Date;
     - List of ingredients or quantitative ingredients declaration;
     - Information, alert on food hygiene and safety;
     - Instructions for use, storage instructions.
Legal basis of the current food labeling
(Continued)

➢ *For Alcohol:*

• The name of the food;
• Name and address of organizations and individuals responsible for goods;
• Origin of products;
• Quantities;
• Content of ethanol (Volume of ethanol);
• Storage instructions (only for wine).
Legal basis of the current food labeling (Continued)

2. Ingredients and quantitative ingredients

- When the name of an ingredient listed on the label in order to make attention to food, the ingredient must indicate the quantities required;

- If the ingredient is a food additive present in the food, the group of food additives, the name of additives, international code (if any) should also appear on the label;

- If food additives as flavorings, sweeteners, colorings are naturally or synthetic present in the food, the following indication should also appear on the label “naturally” or “synthetic”;

- In case of additives added to a food to make coloring, tasting that the color or taste written with the name of a food, their quantities shall not be indicated.
Decree No.21/2006/ND-CP of the Government on the trade and use of the nutritional products for young children provides some provisions relating to the labeling of milk products for young children (from 0 to 24 months of age), including:

- It must record exactly the age of children using the product;
- Number of certificated statement on standards of food hygiene and safety;
- The nutritional information of products;
- Not using languages, images that the products having quality equal to or better than the breastmilk.
Legal basis of the current food labeling
(Continued)

• The Food Safety Law 2010 stipulates:
  ➢ Organizations and individuals producing and importing food, food additives and processing aids in Vietnam shall have to implement the foods labeling in complying with the laws on labelling of goods.
  ➢ For the date of minimum durability of food to be represented on the labels, depending on category of products, shall be recorded with phrase "hạn sử dụng" [expiration date], "sử dụng đến ngày" [using until date] or "sử dụng tốt nhất trước ngày" [best before ....].
Legal basis of the current food labeling
(Continued)

- For functional food, food additives, irradiated food, genetically modified food shall comply the following provisions:
  - For functional food, phrase “functional food” must be recorded and it is not be permitted to express in any forms that its effect replaces medicine.
  - For food additives, phrase “food additives” and other information on scope of use, doses and use methods must be recorded.
  - For irradiated food, phrase “irradiated food” must be recorded;
  - For genetically-modified food, phrase “genetically modified food” must be recorded.
  - For food with variety of components having the presence of genetically-modified component, it shall indicate this GM component.
  - For food with added the nutrients such as vitamines, mineral salts, substances having bioactive must compare to the Recommended Nutrient Intakes for each certain group.
Legal basis of the current food labeling (Continued)

- Decree No.38/2012/ND-CP stipulating detailed regulations for implementing the Food Safety Law provides some provisions on the foods labeling as the following:

  - In case of foods which are supplement foods, health protecting foods, medical nutrient foods, fortified foods and highly perishable from microorganisms, the date given on the labeling shall be “Expiration Date” or “Use by Date”. For other food products, food labeling can use "Best before …" appropriately.

  - Food items with "Best before…" labeling are still allowed to be sold in the market if producers can prove the safety of the food to the competent authorities and it should be labeled clearly as one of these two sentence: “Expiration Date” or “Use-By Date”. Only the food producer can extend the shelf life of the food product, and the maximum extended shelf-life is strictly equal to the original shelf-life.
Legal basis of the current food labeling
(Continued)

- Prepackaged foods should be labeled according to regulations of law and depending on each kind of prepackaged food shall also be met some of provisions as following:
  - Food information on the label shall be accurate, clear and easy to understand for the consumer, particularly shall not be misleading;
  - Labels of functional foods and foods with micro-nutrient fortification shall have the following contents: Declaration of nutrient content; bio-active ingredients; explanation of the use for health; applicable users of the product, dosage and administration, precautions (if any);
Legal basis of the current food labeling

(Continued)

• For medical nutrient foods, foods added with vitamins, minerals, micronutrients that are not recommended for the general public including nutritional formula for pregnant women, nutritional formula for infants than 36 months, and foods for syringe feeding, the labels shall be declared the responsive levels to the nutritional demand, dosage for each applicable user group and in accordance to instructions from physicians.

• For functional foods, foods with micro-nutritients fortification, food additives and some genetically modified foods (subject to labeling requirement on GM foods), the label shall be clearly recorded the composition and content in food;
Plan on the nutrition labeling in future

• Developing the Draft of the Circular of detailed guidance on the contents and recordings in the labeling of prepackaged foods, whilst referring to the nutrition labeling based on regulations of the current Laws of Vietnam on the foods labeling and also refer to the provisions of Codex on nutrition labeling as well as regulations of the countries on the nutrition labeling
Annex of the nutrition labeling (Planned)

- **SUGARS:**
  - Sugars-free
  - With no added sugars
  - Low sugars

- **ENERGY:**
  - Calo-Free
  - Low Calo

- **FAT:**
  - Fat-Free
  - Saturated Fat-Free
  - Low Fat or Fat-Reduced
  - Low Saturated Fat
Annex of the nutrition labeling
(Planned)

- **CHOLESTEROL:**
  - Cholesterol-Free
  - Low Cholesterol
  - Cholesterol-Reduced
- **SOURCE OF FIBRE:**
  - High Fibre
  - With Added Fibre
Thank you for your attention!