Vietnamese legislations on foods labeling

Decree No 89/2006/ND-CP of the Government stipulates the content, how to label and state management of labels of goods circulated in Vietnam, exported and imported goods.

The foods labeling must contain the mandatory contents as following:

- The name of the food;
- The name and address of organizations and individuals responsible for foods;
- Origin of foods;
- Quantities;
- Net weight;
- Date of manufacture;
- Expiration Date, Best before Date;
- List of ingredients or quantitative ingredients declaration;
- Information, alert on food hygiene and safety;
- Instructions for use, storage instructions.
Food labeling

Decree No. 100/2014/ND-CP stipulates on trade and use of nutritional products for infants, bottles and artificial breast sucking, including:

- It must mention exactly the age of children using the product;
- The nutritional information of products;
- Not using languages, images that the products having quality equal to or better than the breastmilk.

Vietnamese legislations on foods labeling

Product for children from 4 - 6 years old

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 "han su dung" [expiration date], "sudung den ngay" [using until date] or "sudung toat nhat truoc ngay" [best before ...].
Vietnamese legislations on foods labeling

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

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

- Circular No. 43/2014/TT-BYT stipulate on management of functional foods.

Functional food
Vietnamese legislations on foods labeling

Joint Circular No. 34/2014/TTLT-BYT-BNNPTNT-BCT Guidelines for the labelling of prepackaged foods, food additives and food processing aids

Nutrition labeling

- At present, regulations on the labeling of pre-packed foods in Vietnam is voluntary, while 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.

Some recommendations on comparative nutrition labeling permitted:

1. Energy:
   - Low calories: 40 kcal (170kJ) per 100g (solids) or 20 kcal (80kJ) per 100 ml (liquids).
   - No calories: 4 kcal per 100 ml (liquids).
2. Fat:
- Low fat content: 3 g per 100g (solids) or 1.5 g per 100 ml (liquids)
- No fat: 0.5 g per 100 g (solids) or over 100 ml (liquid)

3. Sugar:
- No sugar: 0.5 g per 100 g (solids) or 0.5 g per 100 ml (liquids).

4. Sodium:
- Less sodium: 0.12 g per 100 g.
- Very low sodium: 0.04 g per 100 g.
- No sodium: 0.005 g per 100 g

Challenges in Nutrition labeling
- Declaration: difficult to declare because it’s not easy to calculate the total of each nutrition’s factors
- Consumers: don’t understand clearly about labeling and nutrition labeling so they can’t choose suitable products
- Management: difficult to manage and supervise products
- The limitation of machines, laboratory conditions, etc.
Plan in the future

• Getting more informations and sharing from countries

• General principle: Hamonization with Codex and ASEAN guidelines

Thank you for your attention!