

agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance, Private Bag X343, PRETORIA, 0001

FAX COVER SHEET

TO:	Poultry Meat Industry, Retailers and Butcheries		
ATTENTION:	All packers and sellers of poultry meat using scale labels on packaging		
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Subject

DISPENSATION: MARKING REQUIREMENTS ON POULTRY MEAT SCALE LABELS

1. The poultry meat regulations (Government Notice No. R. 946 of 27 March 1992, as amended) require that the labels of poultry meat indicate quite a lot of information. It was brought to the attention of the Department that most scale labels (the scale label printouts attached by the stores and butcheries to the packaging of poultry meat) do not comply with the prescribed marking requirements. Due to the size of the scale labels it is not possible to indicate all the required information and not in the correct letter size as well.

The Department thus investigated the matter and decided to issue a dispensation for scale labels to indicate only the absolutely necessary information and to reduce the letter sizes.

However, please take note that this dispensation is not applicable to the marking requirements required in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 as well as the Legal Metrology Act, 2014.

2. Permission is hereby granted by the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards in terms of section 3(1)(c) of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), to all users of scale labels on the packaging of poultry meat products (covered by Government Notice No. R. 946 of 27 March 1992, as amended) to apply the labelling concessions indicated in the table below for scale labels: Provided that a scale label is the label that is printed by a scale (weighing machine) for the purpose of indicating the weight of the product, but also indicating other labelling information:

Regulations	Requirements	Scale label concessions
8(1)(a),(b),(e) and (f), 8(3) and 9	Applicable class designation or alternate class designation (or trade practice for other parts and other cuts) – minimum letter size 4mm (Shall be the largest except for a trade mark).	Minimum letter size 1mm and clearly legible. May be smaller than the trade mark.
8(1)(k)	Applicable class designation or alternate class designation preceded or followed by the generic name of the added foodstuff or a true description of the added product – minimum letter size 4mm (e.g. "with brine based mixture"; "Mexican spiced", etc.).	Minimum letter size 1mm and clearly legible. The description of the added foodstuff may be shortened ("with brine based mixture" may be shortened to "with brine", "Mexican Spiced Drumsticks" may be shortened to "Mexican Drumsticks" for example).
8(1)(c) and 10	Indication of the Grade on whole carcasses – minimum letter size 4mm.	Minimum letter size 1mm and clearly legible.
8(1)(d)	The expression 'fresh', 'chilled', 'frozen', 'deep frozen' – minimum letter size 3mm.	Optional since the consumer can see that it is fresh, frozen, etc. If indicated minimum letter size 1mm and clearly legible.

8(1)(g)	For whole carcasses the expression 'giblets excluded', 'giblets removed', 'without giblets' – minimum letter size 3mm.	Minimum letter size 1mm and clearly legible.
8(1)(h)	For portions the species of poultry – minimum letter size 4mm.	Optional if it is chicken. Minimum letter size 1mm and clearly legible for other species of poultry.
8(1)(i) and 11 and definition for "packer"	The name or trade name and physical address of the packer – minimum letter size 2mm.	The name or trade name of the packer with telephone number. Minimum letter size 1mm and clearly legible.
11(4)	Country of origin (only imported) – minimum letter size 2mm.	Minimum letter size 1mm and clearly legible.
8(1)(j) and 12	Traceability - Number of production lot or date of processing or packing – minimum letter size 3mm.	Traceability must be in place linked to a date of durability. Minimum letter size 1mm and clearly legible.
8(1)(l)	If trimmed, portions may be marked 'trimmed' – is optional – minimum letter size 3mm.	Optional. If indicated minimum letter size 1mm and clearly legible.

- 3. This permission is subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) All other conditions of the relevant regulations shall be complied with.
 - (b) It may be withdrawn at any time should a valid complaint be received.
 - (c) The Poultry Meat Industry, Retailers and Butcheries (Users of scale labels) indemnify this Directorate and the Department from any detrimental effect, financially or otherwise, which may emanate as a result of this permission.
 - (d) The scale label shall be the only label on the packaging.
 - (e) Termination date: Until labelling requirements specific for scale labels have been included in the regulations.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990 (ACT NO 119 OF 1990)

Copies: Inspection Services