

CARICOM REGIONAL STANDARD

FOR

LABELLING OF GOODS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

CRS / DCS 55 : 2009



CRS/DCS 55:2009 - FOR COMMENTS 09/01/07

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FOREWORD

This standard has been prepared and issued by the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ). It was prepared as a guide to manufacturers and importers on the labelling considered necessary to provide adequate information to the consumer.

It is a proposed mandatory labelling standard and thus no person shall label goods to be sold within the Caribbean Community contrary to it.

This standard was approved by the CROSQ Council on

RELATED DOCUMENTS

The following documents were used in the preparation of this standard:

- a) TTS 76: Part 1- 2006 Trinidad and Tobago Standard Requirements for Labelling Part 1- General Principles
- b) BNS 5:Part 1:1974 Barbados National Standard Specification for Labelling of Commodities (General)
- c) JS 1: Part 1:1992 Jamaican Standard Specification for the Labelling of Commodities Part 20: General Principles

CARICOM REGIONAL STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR LABELLING OF GOODS - GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 Scope

This standard describes general labelling requirements for goods and commodities. It is applicable to all goods and commodities which are customarily labeled in the course of trade, except those for which more specific requirements have been elsewhere prescribed in CARICOM Regional Standards or national regulations.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this standard the following definitions shall apply:

2.1 country of origin means the country where the nature or quality of the goods was last changed to a significant extent, other than by packaging.

2.2 goods mean any commodity, article, product or thing, which is the subject of trade or commerce.

2.3 label means any tag, brand, mark, pictorial or other descriptive matter, written, printed, stenciled, marked, embossed, impressed on, accompanying or attached to a container.

2.4 labelling includes the label and any written, printed, stenciled, marked embossed relating to and accompanying the goods.

2.5 legible means that the written matter can be read and understood without difficulty under the conditions in which the label is normally displayed to a consumer.

2.6 weight shall be interpreted as meaning the same as the term 'mass' in Physics.

3 Labelling requirements

3.1 A label affixed to, or marked on any goods or its external packing or referring to any goods shall conform to the following requirements:

3.1.1 It shall give a description of the goods and shall provide adequate information to a potential purchaser enabling him to select the goods best suited to his needs. This information shall include the weight, volume, measurement, and specification or size as applicable; and shall give such accurate description of components of the goods as is necessary.

3.1.2 It shall, if necessary, provide a purchaser with appropriate operating instructions and with information on care, maintenance and precautions in use where:

- (a) there is any risk to the safety or health of a consumer;
- (b) any significant deterioration of the quality, performance or life durability which may result if the goods are not properly stored;

- (c) if the goods are handled, transported, used, installed, cared for, maintained or repaired, any appropriate hazard symbol and instructions for use shall be provided on the label, on the package or on the goods.

3.1.3 Where a packaged commodity is not marked or labeled, a card or notice shall be placed in close proximity to the place where the goods are displayed or exposed for sale. The information shall be in legible letter size and include the name of the commodity and its weight. It shall include all required principal display panel health warnings.

3.1.4 It shall, if necessary, provide purchaser with appropriate safety instructions.

3.1.5 It shall provide information enabling the manufacturer or supplier to be traced, and shall state the country of manufacture or origin.

3.1.6 It shall be legible and durable up to the point of sale, and where appropriate, during normal working life and use. For legibility, the information appearing on a label shall be in letters and/or numbers of not less than 1.5 mm in height.

3.1.7 It shall not be false, misleading or deceptive.

3.1.8 It shall provide information regarding any specific dangers which might be related to the use of the commodity and shall provide first aid instructions where necessary.

3.1.9 It shall not contain any information by words, pictorial or other devices which refer to or are suggestive, either directly or indirectly, of another commodity with which such a commodity might be confused or in such a manner as lead to lead the purchaser of consumer to suppose that the commodity is connected with such other products.

3.1.10 A claim shall not be made on the label unless it can be substantiated. A commodity shall not be described or presented in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive to create an erroneous impression regarding its character in any respect.

3.1.11 The wording on labels for use in the Caribbean Community shall be in the official language or languages of the country in which the goods are sold.

3.1.12 It is the responsibility of any person who sells or distributes any goods to see that they are labeled as required by this standard

4 Conflict

4.1 In the event of conflict between this standard and a supplementary standard the latter shall prevail.

4.2 In the event of conflict between the provisions of this standard and the provisions of any CARICOM Regional Standard referring to the labelling or marking of particular goods, the latter shall prevail.

4.3 In event of conflict between the provisions of a CARICOM Regional standard for the labelling of classes of goods and national standards or regulations of a territory of the Caribbean

Community, the latter shall prevail until the adoption of the CARICOM Regional Standard.

5 Supplementary Specifications

Supplementary specifications for particular goods or groups of goods, as well as the labelling clauses in product standards shall be read in conjunction with this standard.

6 Registration of labels programme

If applicable, labels should be registered with the national standards organization or competent authority.

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