

CARICOM REGIONAL STANDARD
FOR
LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED GOODS



CRS / DCS 66: 200x

CRS / DCS 66: 200x; For Comments

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Foreword

This standard is a revision of the Caribbean Community Standard Requirements for labelling (Labelling of prepackaged goods) which was prepared for the Caribbean Common Market Standards Council (CCMSC) and approved by the Council of Ministers in December 1978 for use as a voluntary standard. The original standard was prepared at an early stage as the Caribbean Common Market Standards Council had indicated standards for labelling would be given high priority. As many goods for retail sale are commonly sold prepackaged by the manufacturer, the packager, or the retailer, it was recognized that provisions for the information to be given on labels of prepackaged goods would help the consumer or purchaser to assess the quality of goods and their relation to his or her needs and resources.

This revision was approved by the Council of the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards & Quality (CROSQ) on _____. It is intended to:

- a) assist the purchaser or consumer towards an understanding of the nature, quality or use of the goods so that he may judge whether it is adequate for his needs and is of a quality or usefulness for which he judges the price to be acceptable;
- b) enable the manufacturer or retailer to carry out his obligation to describe the goods at the point of sale in a truthful, informative and non-deceptive manner so that no cause for complaint may be found that the goods were wrongly described.

For these reasons, and in order to minimize the confusion that exists in the labelling of different classes of articles so that some are customarily sold with much information, others with little, this standard has been prepared to lay down the basic requirements and basic information that labels should carry. It is hoped that this standard will also assist manufacturers in meeting the requirements for labelling imposed on countries outside the Caribbean Community.

It is recommended that each territory of the Caribbean community adopt this standard as compulsory to prevent fraud and deception arising from misleading labelling and to give adequate information to the consumer or user of prepackaged goods.

Related documents

In drafting this standard, assistance was derived from the following documents:

- a) The Food and Drugs (Amendment) Regulations (1974) – Trinidad and Tobago
- b) The Consumer Packaging and Labeling act (1971) and Regulations (1974) – Canada
- c) TTS 21 10 500 Part – 1976 “Trinidad & Tobago Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Goods”
- d) JS 1: Part 20:1988 Jamaican Standard Specification for the Labelling of Commodities Part 20: Labelling of Prepackaged goods

1 SCOPE

This standard sets out requirements for the information to be included on labels of goods prepackaged for sale, the method of display of such information, and where necessary, the wording and units of measurements (metric) to be used.

This standard does not apply to the following:

- a) Goods that are sold unpackaged, or in an open or uncovered package;
- b) Good that are weighed or measured in or counted into the package in the presence of the purchaser, or weighed, measured or counted in the presence of the purchaser before being packaged;
- c) Goods in packages not intended for retail sale;
- d) Goods or classes of goods where different or additional information is prescribed by any Caribbean Regional Standard or model regulations approved by the Caribbean Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ);
- e) Goods intended for export only which comply with the requirements of standards or laws on labelling in force in the country to which they are being exported;
- f) Cases where any Caricom Regional Standard for any goods or classes of goods makes differing or supplementary provisions for labelling, the provisions of that standard shall prevail over the provisions of this standard;
- g) Gift-wrapped goods;
- h) Markings on shipping containers; and
- i) Commercial users of the product (once buying in commercial quantities).

2 DEFINITIONS

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

2.1 address means the identifiable street address of the principal place of business or registered office of:

- a) The manufacturer or packager of the goods; or
- b) The person for whom the goods are manufactured or packaged.

2.2 bulk container means a container in which packages or commodities are placed, and in which packages or commodities are not intended to be retained when they are sold by way of retail.

- 2.3 combination package** means a package intended for retail sale, which contains two or more individual packages or units of dissimilar commodities.
- 2.4 common name** of any goods means the name by which those goods are commonly described in a member country of the Caribbean Community, or any name for those goods that is commonly used in any trade, art, craft, science, industry or occupation in countries using the English Language or acceptable language of the country in which it is being sold and includes any name in a standard declared by CROSQ, or the competent authority, for those goods.
- 2.5 competent authority** means a Minister, Ministry, department of government or statutory body in a Territory of the Caribbean Community administering any law regulating the labelling of goods.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 date mark** means any date by which the age of any article may be determined if it is subject to deterioration in the course of distribution through trade.
- 2.8 distribute** means to deliver goods to another person in exchange for money, or other consideration or as samples/sampling.
- 2.9 expiry date** means any date after which the manufacturer or packager does not guarantee any property of the goods by reason of the foreseeable deterioration due to age or normal handling before retail sale.
- 2.10 instruction for use** means any information as to the method of storage, handling, use, installation, care, maintenance or repair that may reasonably assist a consumer, user or purchaser in using any goods, or which may be required to be given in conformity with a standard, warranty, or any law in force in a Territory of the Caribbean Community.
- 2.11 label** means any tag, brand, mark, pictorial or other descriptive matter, written, printed, stenciled, marked, embossed, impressed on, accompanying or attached to a container.
- 2.12 manufacturer** means the person who produces, processes, prepares, packages, or prepackages any goods for retail sale.
- 2.13 multiple containers** means a package in which one or more similar articles of prepackaged goods are placed and which may be sold together with them by retail as a unit or each prepackaged article may be sold separately.
- 2.14 multiunit package** means a package containing two or more individual packages of the same commodity in the same quantity, with individual packages intended to be sold as part of the multiunit package, but capable of being sold individually, in full compliance with all the requirements of this standard.

- 2.15 net contents** means the quantity of goods contained in a package as measured in terms of a unit of measurement of length, volume, weight (or mass), or number, when the package and packing materials have been excluded from the goods.
- 2.16 ornamental container** means a package in which the surfaces commonly displayed are used solely for decorative ornament and not for any advertising or promotional information other than the trade name and the common name of the goods.
- 2.17 package** means any container, wrapper, or confining band, in which any product is enclosed for use in the delivery or display of that product to the retail purchaser.
- 2.18 prepackaged goods** means goods that are placed in advance of sale in the final package in which it is intended for retail sale, and in which it may be sold, used or purchased without further repackaging.
- 2.19 principal display panel** means that part of the package which is most likely to be displayed, shown or examined under customary conditions of display for retail sale.
- 2.20 standard mark** means a registered certificate trade mark granted to commodities, processes and practices which consistently perform to national specifications.
- 2.21 registered office** is an address which is registered at the official registering authority as the official address of a company.
- 2.22 retail price** means the price set or asked by a retailer for:
- One or a specified number of articles of the goods; or
 - One or a specified number of units of measurement of the goods.
- 2.23 sell** means:
- Offer of sale, expose for sale, have in possession for sale; and
 - Display in such a manner as may reasonably be construed as to invite an offer to treat or to be for sale.
- 2.24 shipping container** means any container intended to protect goods during transport that is not customarily used to store the goods when displayed for sale.
- 2.25 unit of measurement** means any unit in the SI system of units or the Imperial System of units or any other unit prescribed by law for use in trade, or commonly used in trade, science, the arts, or other occupations to measure the properties of an article.
- 2.26 warranty or guarantee** means an undertaking given by a vendor, manufacturer, distributor or supplier to a buyer or consumer with respect to any goods or part of goods, relating to any of the following matters:
- Safety;
 - Quantity;
 - Quality;
 - Composition;
 - Performance;
 - Lifespan;
 - Durability;

- h) Repair and maintenance services;
- i) Replacement of goods if found defective;
- j) Compensation to the buyer or consumer for any defective goods supplied, or loss, harm, damage or under hardships resulting from use of any defective goods supplied;
or
- k) Any other related matters not included under (a) to (j) above.

3 Requirements

3.1 General

Each package of prepackaged goods shall be labeled with the following information:

- a) The common or usual name of the commodity, a generic name, or appropriately descriptive term such as a statement of function or the name required by or specified in any applicable regulation together with any trade name or brand name controlled by the manufacturer;
- b) The name of the manufacturer and his identifiable address, the principal place of business or registered office of the manufacturer, packer or importer and the name of the country of origin. It shall be preceded by the words “manufactured by”, “packed by.....”, “distributed by....”, “imported by.....”, as applicable, and the words:
 - “**made in (name of territory)**”;
 - “**produce of (name of territory)**”;
 - “**packaged in (name of territory)**”;as appropriate.
- c) A correct statement of the net contents of the package, subject to such tolerance as may be allowed, in metric units of measurement;
- d) All ingredients or contents shall be listed in decreasing order of predominance by weight or volume. If applicable, ‘**Active Ingredients**’ shall be stated first, in decreasing order of weight, or volume, or percentage, followed by the ‘**Inert Ingredients**’, in decreasing order of weight or percentages.
- e) An expiry date or date marks where an indication of the age of the goods is likely to be useful to the consumer or purchaser.

3.2 Position of Information on the package or on the goods

3.2.1 The information required by 3.1 (a) and (c) shall be placed on the principal display panel of the package, that is, the part of the package that is displayed or visible to the purchaser or consumer at the point of sale, which may be:

- a) In the case of a box, the side or surface commonly displayed;
- b) In the case of a cylindrical container, an area covering an arc of 40 percent of the circumference of the cylindrical surface;
- c) In the case of a bag with equal sides, one of these sides;

- d) In the case of a bag with sides of more than one size, the size with the largest area;
- e) In the case of a wrapper or confining band that is much narrower than the goods contained therein, the total area of a ticket or tag attached to the container or to the goods;
- f) In the case of an article attached to a display card with which it is sold, the area of the display card and of the package; and
- g) In the case of an ornamental package, at the bottom of the package.

3.2.2 The information required by 3.1 (b), (d) and (e) shall be shown on any part of the label except that part of the label, if any, applied to the bottom of the container.

3.3 Prevention of deception

A label on package of prepackaged goods may contain other information, designs, symbols or pictorial matter, provided that no words, illustration, symbols, or other matter are used to:

- a) Give an erroneous impression as to the net contents of the package;
- b) Give an erroneous impression as to any ingredient or component of the goods or that the goods contain an ingredient or component that is not in fact contained in it;
- c) Refer to the nature, origin, type, quality, performance, function, or method of manufacture or production of the goods that is likely to give an erroneous impression as to the matter described or depicted;
- d) Give an erroneous impression as to the country of origin of the goods;
- e) Give an erroneous impression as to the price or unit price of the goods;
- f) Give an erroneous impression as to ease of maintenance or repair of the goods, or as to the availability of spare parts for the goods.
- g) Give an undertaking or warranty, expressed or implied, which cannot be satisfied by the product or the manufacturer.

3.4 Exemptions for certain retail sales

Goods which are repackaged by the retailer need not be labeled with the information required by 3.1, so long as they are sold or displayed or exposed for sale in close proximity to a notice, card, or statement in clearly discernible lettering containing the information required by 3.1.

3.5 Language to be used on labels of prepackaged goods

3.5.1 All statements required by 3.1 shall be in the official language or languages accepted by the government of country in which the product is being sold.

3.5.2 All statements required by clause 3 shall be printed or written in the alphabet of the official language of the country in which it is being sold.

3.5.3 All numbers relating to net contents stated on the label shall be given in Arabic numerals or in words.

3.5.4 Where multiple languages are used, those languages shall be specified by the country in which the product is being sold. Where a country specifies that more than one language is to be used, the statements required by 3.1 shall be separate from the statements in other languages, and placed on the label or package as required by 3.3.

3.6 Information as to retail price or unit price

3.6.1 The label on a package may include a statement of the price of the goods in the package.

3.6.2 Where the price of a package of the goods is not marked on the label or on the package, the price shall be clearly displayed on a card or notice placed in the close proximity to the place where the goods are displayed or exposed for sale.

3.6.3 Where units of the same goods differ in quantity so that packages containing the goods are not uniform in net contents, the price of each package and net contents of each package shall be marked by the packager or retailer on the label, together with the price for a unit of measurement of the goods.

3.6.4 Where a claim is made:

- a) That the goods are sold at a new price which is less than a previous price; or
- b) That an amount has been taken off the price of the goods;
- c) Then the old and new prices shall be stated in figures of equal size and style.

3.7 Warranties or guarantees

No reference shall be made on a label or on a package to any warranty or guarantee for any goods unless a copy of the warranty or guarantee is given to the purchaser or consumer at the time he takes possession of the goods.

3.8 Presentation of Information

3.8.1 All information required by this standard to be placed on a label or ticket shall be clearly presented and readily discernible under normal conditions of sale.

3.8.2 Where the statements of common name or manufacturer's name or manufacturer's address or of country of origin consist of more than one word, the statements thereof required by 3.1 shall be in letters of identical size and style of print.

3.9 Date markings and expiry dates

3.9.1 Where products are liable to deteriorate after the date of manufacture or packaging so that the quality, safety, hygiene or other desirable characteristics are not likely to be maintained, the expected shelf life shall be indicated with a date mark, a date of minimum durability or expiry date.

3.9.2 The preferred format for the date markings would be for the month to be declared using the first three letters of the word (e.g. JAN, FEB, etc.). Where the year is declared, a two digit numerical representation of the year is adequate when accompanied by the first three letters of the month (e.g. JAN 08). The complete four digit numerical representation of the year (e.g. 2008) shall be used when the two digit numerical representation of the month is used (e.g. 01 2008).

3.9.3 The date of minimum durability shall be declared by the words “best before” or words expressing similar intent e.g. “expiry” or “use by”. The words used to express date of minimum durability shall be accompanied by:

- a) either the date itself; or
- b) a reference to where the date is given.

3.9.4 In addition to the date of minimum durability if there are any special conditions for storage of the product, it shall be declared on the label if the validity of the date depends on it.

3.10 Instructions for use and information on source for spare parts

3.10.1 Instructions for use or care in handling shall be included on the label or accompanying document, as necessary to ensure correct utilization of the product.

3.10.2 Where any risk to the safety or health of a consumer or user, or where any significant deterioration of the quality, performance life, durability, or other property of the goods may result if the goods are not properly stored, handled, transported, used installed, cared for, maintained or repaired, any appropriate hazard symbol and instructions for use, shall be in the official language or languages of the country in which the goods are being sold, and shall be provided either on the label, on the package, on the goods, or on a card or paper accompanying the goods or package.

3.10.3 Where components of an article are likely to become unserviceable before the end of the expected life of the article, and where such components are not commonly available, the instructions for use should indicate the name or appropriate specification of the component or spare part.

3.10.4 Where no instructions for use are given with the article or goods, the information on spare parts shall be supplied separately with the goods.

3.11 Display of hazard warnings

If a hazard warning is required by another product standard, the warning including pictorials shall be displayed at point of sale when the goods are separated from the packaging.

4 Use of standard marks

- 4.1** The law of a Territory shall govern the use of a Standard Mark issued by a standard organization of a Territory of the Caribbean Community.
- 4.2** The use of a Standard Mark issued by a national or regional standard organization outside or within the Caribbean Community shall be in accordance with the rules or laws governing that Standard Mark applied by the standard organization.
- 4.3** No manufacturer or packager shall use a standard mark on a label, on a package, or on goods without written authorization in accordance with the laws or rules referred to in 4.1 and 4.2.

NOTE At the time of development of this standard, the following bodies in the Caribbean Community issue Standard Marks:

- a) Barbados National Standards Institute (BNSI)
- b) Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ)
- c) Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS)
and should be consulted as appropriate.

5 Advice on labels

- 5.1** A manufacturer or packager should consult with a competent authority or a national standards organization in a Territory of the Caribbean Community, as to whether any label he uses or proposes to use on prepackaged goods complies with the provisions of this or any other Caribbean Regional Standard, or of any model regulations approved by CROSQ referring to labelling.
- 5.2** Where a competent authority administers a law referring to this or other Caricom Standards Council standard that makes provision for labelling of goods, the Caribbean Regional Standards will refer the applicant to that authority for advice on labels.

6 Conflicts

- 6.1** In the event of conflict between the provisions of this standard and the labelling requirements of any other CARICOM Regional Standard or model regulations approved by CROSQ, the latter shall prevail.
- 6.2** In event of conflict between the provisions of this standard and any CARICOM Regional Standard for the labelling of classes of goods that are sold prepackaged, the latter shall prevail.
- 6.3** In event of conflict between the provisions of a CARICOM Regional standard for the labelling of classes of goods that are sold prepackaged and a national standard of a territory of the Caribbean Community, the latter shall prevail until the adoption of the CARICOM Regional Standard.

7 Registration of labels programme

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