

# New Food Labelling Enforcement Action

**Centre for Food Safety**

# Background

- The Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008 (the Amendment Regulation), which introduces the Scheme for prepackaged food, has come into force since 1 July 2010.
- The Scheme under the Regulation has come into full operation for nearly four years and the trade should be familiar with and capable of strictly abiding by the requirements stipulated in the relevant provisions.
- In addition, CFS has issued a “Trade Guidelines on Preparation of Legible Food Label” in May 2012 to assist the trade in providing clear and legible information on the food labels.

# Current Food Labelling Enforcement Action

- Where irregularities such as incomplete nutrition label are identified, CFS will issue a warning letter to the trader concerned requiring actions to be taken to comply with the requirements of the Scheme within 60 days.
- For traders who fail to do so, CFS will initiate prosecution.

# Current Food Labelling Enforcement Action

- If discrepancy between the actual nutrient content based on test result and the stated value on the nutrition label is detected, CFS will issue a letter to the trader concerned requiring an explanation within 21 days.
- If the explanation is not accepted by CFS and the food concerned is still found on sale, a warning letter requiring the trader concerned to take actions to comply with the requirements of the Scheme within 39 days will then be issued.
- In case the food item with detected discrepancy remains on sale after 39 days, CFS will initiate prosecution.

# Current Food Labelling Enforcement Action

- Where general labelling irregularities such as incomplete or inappropriate food name, ingredients not listed in descending order are detected, CFS will issue the 4-week warning letter to the trader concerned to rectify the irregularities.
- If the trader fails to do so, CFS will initiate prosecution.

## Current Food Labelling Enforcement Action on Festive Food

- For some cases such as festive food like rice dumpling, CFS has been adopting a different enforcement strategy to shorten the time allowed for compliance, given that the window for selling such festive food may be short.
- Starting in June 2012, if irregularities of festive food such as incomplete nutrition label are identified, CFS will give verbal warnings to the trader concerned, requiring actions to be taken to rectify the irregularities within 7 days. If the irregularities persist, a warning letter will be issued to the trader.
- For traders who fail to comply within 7 days after the issue of the warning letters, CFS will initiate prosecution.

# New Food Labelling Enforcement Action

- CFS has decided to tighten up its enforcement by doing away with the explanation period, as well as the practice of issuing warning letters and allowing time for rectifying any irregularities, as mentioned above.
- If CFS identifies any non-compliance with the requirements, including failure to provide labels meeting the legibility requirement, CFS will initiate prosecutions immediately without allowing any time for compliance.
- The new enforcement strategy will come into effect on 1 October 2014.

~ Thank You ~