

Sampling Plan for Nutrition Labelling Compliance Testing



Legislative background

The Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008 ('the Amendment Regulation'), has come into force on 1st July 2010, introduces a Nutrition Labelling Scheme which covers two types of nutrition information on food labels, namely

- Nutrition labelling and
- Nutrition claims.

The Amendment Regulation requires the trade to comply with the scheme. It requires

- all general prepackaged food sold in Hong Kong are mandated to carry a nutrition label (energy and seven core nutrients), unless the prepackaged food product is exempt under the Amendment Regulation; and
- nutrition claims must meet certain specific conditions.

Responsibility of the trade

The trade is responsible for ensuring that nutrition label and claims are compliant with the Amendment Regulation and that label values accurately reflect the nutrient content of the product.

Sampling plan

The sampling plan was adopted after considering similar plans that are being used by other food authorities in the world, and it was endorsed by the Expert Committee on Food Safety of the Centre for Food Safety.

The sampling plan requires that twelve individually prepackaged consumer units to be taken randomly from the same food lot in question as practicable and then combined to make a composite sample. When twelve individually prepackaged consumer units are not available or when it is not practicable for the requisite



number of consumer units to be collected, CFS may take minimum amount of sample that is required to run the testing.

The composite sample is analyzed, and the result of the analysis shall be the estimate of the lot nutrient content.

Criteria for compliance

Laboratory analysis results of a composite sample, taken under the sampling plan, shall be interpreted according to the standards given in CFS 'Technical Guidance Notes on Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claims' whilst rounding rules given in the Technical Guidance Notes are also taken into account. For nutrition claims the values should fall within the limits of the rounding rules given in the Technical Guidance Notes. Consumers and the trade can obtain the Technical Guidance Notes and other relevant nutrition labelling information from the Centre for Food Safety website at http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/food_leg/food_leg_nl_guidance.html.