

Compliance Test for Nutrition Labelling and Declaration of Allergens of prepackaged food products

Centre for Food Safety

Background

- The Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap 132W) require all applicable prepackaged foods to list out
 - The content of energy plus seven core nutrients, namely, carbohydrates, protein, total fat, saturated fat, trans fat, sodium and sugars (commonly known as “1 + 7”)
 - The ingredients, among others, any of the substances specified in section 2(4E) of Schedule 3 to the aforesaid Regulations which are known to cause allergy in some individuals, if present
- The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has been testing, among other things, nutrients and allergens in prepackaged food samples for compliance under the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap 132W).

Testing parameter

■ Nutrition Label

- energy plus seven core nutrients
 - Carbohydrates;
 - Protein;
 - total fat;
 - saturated fat;
 - trans fat;
 - Sodium;
 - Sugars ; or
- any combination of these core nutrients

Testing parameter

■ Allergen

- cereals containing gluten;
- crustacea and crustacean products;
- eggs and egg products;
- fish and fish products;
- peanuts;
- soyabeans and their products;
- milk and milk products (lactose included);
- tree nuts and nut products; and
- sulphite in a concentration of 10 parts per million or more

Violation

- Any person who sells prepackaged food which is not complied with the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap 132W) is an offence.
- The offender will be liable to a fine \$50,000 and imprisonment for 6 months.

Advice to trade

- Only use food satisfying safety and quality requirements
- Maintain proper records in accordance with the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) to allow source tracing
- Source food from reliable suppliers, including -
 - Checking the source and quality of food ingredients;
 - Checking whether the suppliers possess the relevant food business licenses;
 - Checking whether they have been registered as food importers or distributors under the Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612)

~ Thank you ~