

Food labelling requirements



Community Information Sheet

Since 1 March 2016, some changes have occurred to the food labelling requirements in Australia. Standard 1.2.1 – ‘Requirements to have labels and provide information’, from the Food Standards Code, outlines the new labelling requirements.

This information sheet is extracted from that standard to assist the local community and food business operators. It is a very brief summary only. Contact an Environmental Health Officer for further advice or clarification.

Does this food for sale need to bear a label?

If you tick **any** box below, the food does **not** need to bear a label.

If you tick no boxes below, the food **does** need to bear a label?

- Is the food unpackaged?
- Is the food made and packaged on the premises from which it is sold?
- Is the food packaged in the presence of the purchaser?
- For whole or cut fresh fruit & vegetables (other than seed sprouts & similar), is it in a package that does not obscure the nature or quality of the food?

- Is the food delivered packaged, and ready for consumption, at the express order of the purchaser (other than for vending machines)?
- Is the food sold at a fund raising event?
- Is the food displayed in an assisted service display cabinet?

fund raising event means an event that raises funds solely for a community or charitable cause and not for personal financial gain

assisted service display cabinet means an enclosed or semi-enclosed display cabinet which requires a person to serve the food as requested by the purchaser.

What does a food label need to contain?

- Name of the food
- Lot identification
- Name and address of supplier
- Any required advisory statements, warning statements or declarations
- Statement of ingredients
- Date marking information
- Storage conditions and directions for use
- Information relating to nutrition, health and related claims
- Nutrition information (Calculator web link: <https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/industry/npc/Pages/nutrition-panel-calculator.aspx>)
- Country of origin statement
- Information about characterising ingredients and characterising components

Note: for any of the following food types, contact an Environmental Health Officer for further requirements that may apply:

- Minced, processed, formed, joined, fermented or manufactured meat or fish products
- Oils

- Juice blends
- Packaged water
- Electrolyte drinks
- Kava
- Formulated caffeinated beverages
- Alcoholic foods or drinks
- Special purpose foods or amino acid modified foods
- Infant foods or formulas
- Formulated meal replacements, formulated supplementary foods, formulated supplementary sports foods, foods for special medical purposes
- Salt substitutes or reduced sodium salt mixes

Country of origin labelling

Food has to indicate the country of origin if:

- 1) It is required to bear a label, or
- 2) It is whole or cut fresh fruit & vegetables in a package that does not obscure the nature or quality of the food, or
- 3) It is unpackaged, *displayed for retail sale* **and** is any of the foods mentioned below:
 - Fruit & vegetables
 - Fish or fish products
 - Port
 - Beef or veal
 - Lamb
 - Hogget
 - Mutton
 - Chicken
 - Any mix of the above foods.

For further information, contact the Shire’s Environmental Health Services on 9941 0000 or email health@carnarvon.wa.gov.au.