

Labelling

Part II (Standards and Particular Labelling Requirements) of the New Zealand Food Regulations 1984 (incorporating Amendments 1 to 10) states the following in relation to fresh fruit and vegetables:

"167. Vegetables -

Vegetables shall be the clean, sound parts of plants that are used or intended for use for food..."

"168. Raw vegetables -

- 1) *Raw vegetables shall be vegetables that are not dehydrated, dried, canned, or frozen.*
- 2) *Raw vegetables shall not be withered, shrivelled, or discoloured."*

"176. Fruit -

Fruit shall be the clean, sound, fleshy parts of plants that are used as food and are distinguished by their sweet, acid or ethereal flavours."

"177. Raw fruit -

- 1) *Raw fruit shall be fruit that is not dried, pulped, dehydrated, frozen, canned, or candied.*
- 2) *It shall not be withered, shrivelled, or discoloured."*

Part I (General Labelling Requirements) of the Food Regulations includes the following stipulations which apply to packaged fresh fruit and vegetables:

"4. General requirements for labelling of food -

- 1) *Every package containing food shall, unless other wise provided in these regulations, bear a label stating -*
 - a) *The common name of the food, or a description (other than the name of the food) sufficient to indicate the true nature of the food, or a description of the food including the common names of its principal ingredients; and*
 - b) *The net weight or volume or number of the contents of the package, whichever measure is appropriate for the sale of the article concerned;*
 - c) *The trading name and business address of the manufacturer or seller or packer of the article, or of the owner of the rights of manufacture, or of the principal or the agent of any of them.*

- 2) *Subclause 1(a) - of this regulation shall not apply to any package of food that contains only raw fruit, or raw vegetables, that are intended for retail sale and that are packaged in such a manner that the contents are visible and identifiable in the package."*

"5. Form and manner of labelling -

- 1) *Every word or statement that is required by these regulations to be borne on a label shall be in English and shall -*
 - a) *Be conspicuously printed and, for each word or statement separately required, be in uniform colour contrasting strongly with a uniform background; and*
 - b) *Be clearly, legibly, and durably marked either on the material of the package or on material firmly and securely attached to the package; and*
 - c) *Be presented with continuity."*

Regulations 4 and 5, however, do not apply to "raw fruit that, immediately after it has been picked, is packed directly in a package intended for retail sale in units of not more than 500g and that bears the name and address of the packer or grower".

The requirements for processed fruit and vegetable products are somewhat more comprehensive, including requirements for statement of ingredients, date marking, etc.