

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: December 16, 2021

Report Number: HK2021-0071

Report Name: Hong Kong Voluntary Salt and Sugar Labeling Scheme for Prepackaged Food Products

Country: Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Report Category: Agriculture in the Economy, Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

Healthy eating is the growing trend in Hong Kong embraced by both the government and the general public. In this context, the Hong Kong government is encouraging the trade to use less salt and sugar for foods by introducing a voluntary “Salt/Sugar” label scheme for prepackaged food products. These nutrient labels are intended to help Hong Kong consumers identify foods and drinks which contain low/no salt or low/no sugar. Some multinational food producers are already using the labels to make their products stand out from a wide array of choices.

The Hong Kong Center for Food Safety (CFS) is the food safety authority, assuming regulatory oversight on food labels. In response to the Hong Kong government's initiative to promote healthy eating and reduce health care expenses, the CFS introduced a voluntary Salt/Sugar Label Scheme for Prepackaged Food Products to help consumers identify low-salt-low-sugar products.

Color Version



Black and White Version



Parameters for the Claims

Initially introduced in 2017, the scheme is voluntary. All prepackaged foods can use the labels if the sodium and sugar content meet the claims criteria respectively. According to Hong Kong's food labeling regulation, Hong Kong importers or retailers can make changes to the labels on the packaging if they have obtained the approval from manufacturers. Labels do not necessarily need to be printed on the packaging, stick-on labels are acceptable. It is very common that Hong Kong importers of U.S. products with U.S. labels replace these with Hong Kong labels. This is particularly the practice for small volume sales products or trial orders.

Nutrient Content of Claims

Nutrient	Claim	Conditions
Sodium (Salt)	Low	Food, solid or liquid, containing not more than 0.12 g of sodium per 100 g/mL of food.
	No	Food, solid or liquid, containing not more than 0.005 g of sodium per 100 g/ml of food.
Sugars	Low	Solid food containing not more than 5 g of sugars per 100 g of food; or liquid food containing not more than 5 g of sugars per 100 ml of food.
	No	Solid food containing not more than 0.5 g of sugars per 100 g of food; or liquid food containing not more than 0.5 g of sugars per 100 ml of food.

The objective of the label is to help consumers identify foods which are both low salt and low sugar. Therefore, there are limitations for using the labels. “No Salt” or “Low Salt” labels can be applied on foods which are not high in sugar, in addition to fulfilling the claim requirements for salt. Similarly, “No Sugar” or “Low Sugar” labelled foods cannot be high in sodium and sugar.

(Note – Definition of High Sodium: solid food containing more than 600 mg of sodium per 100 grams of food or liquid food containing more than 300 mg of sodium per 100 ml of food. Definition of High Sugar: solid food containing more than 15 grams of sugars per 100 grams of food or liquid food containing more than 7.5 grams of sugars per 100 ml of food.)

The trade must obtain consent from the CFS for the use of these claim labels. U.S. traders interested to make use of these claims on packaging or promotional media are encouraged to liaise with their Hong Kong trade representatives for application.

All products approved to use these labels are listed on CFS’ [website](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.