

MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION SERVICE
CHECKLIST FOR ACCURACY OF LABELS

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENTS OF MOST LABELS. USE THIS CHECKLIST AS A GUIDE BEFORE SUBMITTING LABELS FOR APPROVAL OR BEFORE HAVING THEM PRINTED.

1. PRODUCT NAME:

Does label bear the true name of the product? Product name should not mislead the public.

2. STATEMENT OF INGREDIENTS:

- (a) If the ingredient statement (required on labels of all products containing two or more ingredients) contiguous to the product name?
- (b) Are qualifying statements, such as "Artificially Colored," "Nonfat Dry Milk Added," "Cereal Added," etc. contiguous to the product name?
- (c) Are ingredients listed in order of their predominance in the product?
- (d) Is the word "Ingredients", before the actual listing of ingredients, spelled out?
- (e) Is the name of each ingredient identified by its common or usual name, recognizable by the public?
- (f) If the product has a definition, be sure the product name, qualifying statements and ingredients statement conform to the definition.

3. INSPECTION LEGEND:

- (a) Is the legend in the prescribed proportions and is lettering correct and of the proper size? A description of the label requirements can be found on page 4 of this attachment.
- (b) Is the inspection legend on the principal display panel?

4. NET WEIGHT STATEMENT:

- (a) Is the net weight statement in the lower 30% of the label? Is the net weight shown on the principal panel?

- (b) Is the net weight expressed in both ounces and pounds on containers of product of 1 lb. or more and less than 4 lbs.? EXAMPLE: 24 oz. (1 ½ lbs.) or 1 ½ lbs. (24 oz.). Alternately, net weights may be expressed decimally in hundredths.

NET WEIGHT STATEMENT (continued)

- (c) Content statement may not be qualified by terms such as "when packed," "not less than," "minimum," "full" and "jumbo".
- (d) Strip labels or pressure sensitive labels used on bulk packages need not bear a net weight statement, providing the net weight statement appears elsewhere on the principal display panel or is written on the packages in a space provided for that purpose.

5. COMPANY NAME AND ADDRESS:

- (a) The company name (producer) as it is shown on the official application for inspection must appear on the principal display panel.

If the name is other than the producer, it must be qualified by a statement identifying the person or firm associated with the product, such as "Packed for _____," or "Distributed by _____."

- (b) The address of the plant (city, state and zip code) must also be shown on the principal display panel provided such business is listed in the local telephone or city directory. If not listed in such directory, then the place of business shall be shown by street address, city, state and zip code.

6. HANDLING STATEMENT:

- (a) Packaged products which require special handling to maintain wholesomeness must have a statement on the label identifying the condition that must be maintained, such as "Keep Refrigerated," "Keep Frozen," or "Perishable Keep Refrigerated."
- (b) Ground meat mixtures containing pork, or pork and beef, veal, mutton or goat meat, and prepared in such a manner that they might be eaten rare or without thorough cooking should bear the statement "Cook Before Eating."
- (c) All handling statements must be on the principal panel including "Safe Handling Instructions" as outlined in Meat and Poultry Inspection Service Regulations, Section 317.2(1). A copy of this section is attached.

7. PRINTING:

All required words, statements, or information must be printed in the same plane on the principal display panel or label as the case may be.

Required words, statements or information must be printed on a sufficiently contrasting background and be of such size, type or lettering which will afford easy reading.

NET WEIGHT STATEMENT (continued)

8. COLORS, PICTURES AND PACKAGES:

Be certain colors and picture are not used to mislead customers or make the product appear better than it is. Packages should not be any larger than needed to contain the amount of product packaged.

9. SUBMISSION OF LABELS FOR APPROVAL:

- (a) A sketch or proof label must be submitted for approval for all products before printing finished labels.
- (b) Labels in final form (after printing) for all products must be submitted for approval and then filed in the plant's files accessible to the inspector upon request.
- (c) All labels should be submitted through your Area Supervisor to the State Meat and Poultry Inspection Office in Raleigh.
- (d) All labels (in sketch and/or final form) must be submitted on MPIS Form 12 (the official label form). Be sure you list the formula (in lbs. or ozs.), method of preparation and all other required information as accurately as possible on this form.
- (e) You should submit all requests for label approval in triplicate.

10. NUTRITIONAL LABELING:

Contact your assigned inspector or Area Supervisor for assistance.

USDA FSIS label web site: www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/index.htm.

NOTE: The above procedures also apply to the re-submission of a label prior to the reorder of a label to replenish depleted supply.

NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
 TITLE 2 AGRICULTURE
 CHAPTER 52 – VETERINARY DIVISION
 SUBCHAPTER 52D – MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION

.0002 OFFICIAL MARK OF INSPECTION

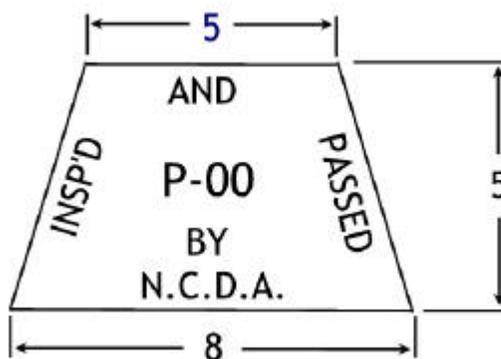
Part 312 of the Federal Meat Inspection Regulation shall refer to the following official North Carolina mark of Inspection:

- (1.) The mark shall be an isosceles trapezoid with base and top lines parallel, and the top line centered over the base. The distance between the base and top lines shall be equal to the length of the top line. The proportion of these lengths shall be as follows:

Base Line	Top Line	Distance Between Base and Top
8	5	5

- (2.) The text of the mark within the border of the trapezoid shall be as follows:
- "INSP'D" centered along the periphery of the left hand edge;
 - "AND" centered along the periphery of the top;
 - "PASSED" centered along the periphery of the right hand edge;
 - "N.C.D.A." centered along the periphery of the bottom edge;
 - "BY" centered immediately above the letters "N.C.D.A.";
 - The plant designator number "P – (No.)" will be centered in the remaining space.
- (3.) A height of approximately one-ninth of the vertical distance between the base and top lines shall be the lettering size for "INSP'D", "AND", "PASSED", "BY", "N.C.D.A." as they appear in the official North Carolina mark of inspection.
- (4.) A height of not less than one-seventh and not greater than one-sixth of the vertical distance between the base and top lines shall be the lettering size for the plant designator number "P – (No.)" as it appears in the official North Carolina mark of inspection.

ILLUSTRATION



Note: The figure along borders represent proportionate dimensions