



BEEF WATCH

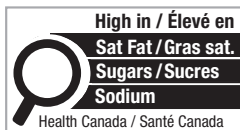
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Welcome to the first edition of Canada Beef's Beef Watch. The intent of this regulatory brief is to inform our partners on national and international regulations and emerging issues that may affect the Canadian Beef industry. Beef Watch will be published on an as-needed basis, as issues arise that warrant communicating.

HEALTH CANADA LAUNCHES NEW MANDATORY FRONT-OF-PACKAGE (FOP) NUTRITION LABELLING REGULATIONS

On July 20, 2022 Health Canada published new regulations that amend the Food and Drug Regulations (FDR) in Canada Gazette II to include new requirements for Front-of-Package nutrition symbol labelling (FOP labelling) for most prepackaged products sold at retail if they contain nutrients of public health concern (saturated fat, sugars and/or sodium) at or above specific thresholds. In most cases, the thresholds for prepackaged products are 15% Daily Value (DV) for each nutrient of concern. The nutrition symbol must appear on the principal display panel; its design is set out in Schedule K.1 in the FDR. The regulations apply to foods manufactured in Canada or imported for sale in Canada.



The regulations came into force on July 20, 2022. The transition period ends December 31, 2025. Compliance will begin January 1, 2026. Health Canada developed the regulations, CFIA will be responsible for monitoring and compliance.

The highlights below serve as high level overview of the new regulations.

IMPLICATIONS FOR BEEF SOLD AT RETAIL: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Specified food products received a conditional technical exemption from FOP symbol labelling. An exemption means that a symbol is not required even if the product's saturated fat, sugars and/or sodium meets or exceeds the threshold. These exemptions include:

- raw single ingredient meat, meat by-product, poultry meat or poultry meat by-product
- raw single ingredient ground meats

2. The FOP exemption is lost under certain conditions.

- Conditionally exempt products (including beef cuts and grinds) will have to carry a FOP nutrition symbol (and NfT) if the label refers to calories or a specific nutrient, or the label or advertisement of the product contains a nutrient content claim. For example, if a nutrient claim such as "source of iron" is present on a package of single ingredient ground beef, the product is no longer exempt from carrying an FOP symbol.



Conditionally Exempt - single ingredient beef grinds and cuts



No Exemption - further processed beef products

3. If a manufacturer chooses to voluntarily display an NfT on a product that was otherwise exempt from having the NfT, the product still maintains its conditional exemption from the FOP symbol requirements.
4. Further processed beef products are not exempt from FOP labelling and will have to carry a "high in" symbol if the product meets or exceeds any of the specified thresholds for sodium, sugar and/or saturated fat.
5. To assess if a FOP nutrition symbol is required on the label, specified calculations are required. Several factors are considered including the reference amount or serving size for the food as sold, whether the food is a main dish or snack and if the food is intended solely for children 1 to 4 years of age. For further details refer to Front-of-Package Nutrition Symbol Labelling Guide for Industry.

Full exemptions were given to specified foods that are not sold directly to consumers. For example:

- Ready-to-serve multiple-serving products intended only to be served in a commercial or industrial enterprise or an institution
- Products intended only to be used as ingredients in other prepackaged products intended to be sold to consumers at retail or as ingredients in the preparation of food by a commercial or industrial enterprise or an institution

HEALTH CANADA TOOLS TO SUPPORT FOP LABELLING

To complement the launch of the FOP labelling requirements, Health Canada is planning to develop a public awareness education campaign on the use of the FOP symbols. They also plan a consumer behaviour change and quality of the food supply audit/monitoring. A Front-of-Package Nutrition Symbol Labelling Guide for Industry has been developed to help industry become familiar with core elements of the FOP regulations.

Canada Beef is preparing an educational resource for industry with further details about the program and will continue to monitor needs and develop supports accordingly. Contact Karine Rekunyk, RD, Director, Health & Nutrition, at krekunyk@canadabeef.ca.

RESOURCES

Front-of-Package Nutrition Symbol Labelling Guide for Industry
Regulations Amending the Food and Drug Act Food Symbols

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Questions on the new requirements and their intent can be submitted to Health Canada at nut.labelling-etiquetage@hc-sc.gc.ca.

Questions dealing with compliance and enforcement activities: please refer to the implementation plan on the CFIA website.