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## **China - Peoples Republic of**

**Post:** Beijing

### **General Requirement for the Labeling of Flavorings**

#### **Report Categories:**

FAIRS Subject Report

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#### **Report Highlights:**

On March 27, 2009, China notified the WTO of "National Standard of the People's Republic of China - General Requirement for the Labeling of Flavorings" as TBT/N/CHN/571. This standard specifies the requirements for the labeling of flavorings and the contents that should be marked. This report contains an UNOFFICIAL translation of the original document.

#### **Executive Summary:**

On March 27, 2009, China notified the WTO of "National Standard of the People's Republic of China - General Requirement for the Labeling of Flavorings" as TBT/N/CHN/571. This standard specifies the requirements for the labeling of flavorings and the contents that should be marked. The date for submission of final comments to the WTO is May 27, 2009. The proposed date of adoption is 90 days after circulation by the WTO Secretariat (June 27, 2009) and the proposed date of entry into force is 6 months after adoption (September 27, 2009).

By reference to GB 7718-2004 General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods and Measures for the Hygienic Administration of Food Additives, the drafters suggest that this standard was created on the basis of the practice of the flavoring industry. This report contains an UNOFFICIAL translation of the original document.

## **General Information:**

BEGIN TRANSLATION

### **General Requirement for the Labeling of Flavorings**

**(Draft Standard for Approval)**

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#### **Foreword**

**Article 4, Article 5.1.1, Article 5.1.2 and Article 5.2 in this national standard are mandatory while others in this standard are voluntary.**

Flavorings are the raw materials of food industry and other allied industries and the labeling of flavorings is mainly used to provide the processors with necessary information and, therefore, distinctions are made between its labeling requirements and the labeling of prepackaged foods. By reference to GB 7718-2004 General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods and the Measures for the Hygienic Administration of Food Additives, this standard is made on the basis of the practice of the flavoring industry.

The contents and structure of this standard are based upon GB/T 1.1-2000 Directives for standardization: Part 1: Rules for the structure and drafting of standards and GB/T 1.2-2002 Directives for standardization and Part 2: Methodology for the content of normative technical elements in standards

This Standard was proposed by the China National Light Industry Council.

This Standard is under the jurisdiction of National Technical Committee of Standardization for Flavor Fragrance Cosmetic.

This Standard was drafted by Shanghai Research Institute of Fragrance & Flavor Industry, Shanghai Institute for Food Production supervision, Shanghai Apple Group, Guangzhou Baihua Flavors and Fragrances Co., Ltd., Shenzhen Boton Flavors & Fragrances Co., Ltd. and Firmenich (China) Co., Ltd.

The main drafters of this Standard: Yuan Liming, Xu Yi, Zhong Quanbin, Yang Wei, Hu Yongcheng, Li Zehong, Xu Jingfang, Mao Tianjie and Jin Qizhang.

### **General Requirement for the Labeling of Flavorings**

#### **1. Scope**

This national standard specifies the requirement for the labeling of flavorings and the contents that should be designated.

This national standard is applicable to the designations of the labeling for flavorings manufactured (including those repackaged) and sold within the territory of the People's Republic of China, where the labeling is divided into two types, the first type is the labeling for the minimum packed single and the second is the outer-packing labeling for the outer package of the minimum single package.

#### **2. Normative Quoted Documents**

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this Standard, constitute provisions

of this Standard. For dated reference, subsequent amendments to (excluding corrected errors), or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies.

GB 2760, Hygienic Standard for Uses of Food Additives;

The Measures for the Measurement Supervision and Administration of Prepackaged Commodities with Fixed Content, the 75th Decree issued by General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China in 2005.

### **3. Terms and Definitions**

The following terms and definitions are applicable to this Standard.

#### **3.1 Flavorings (flavor compound)**

Flavorings refer to the concentrated and blended compounds comprised of food flavoring and flavoring adjuncts (excluding the preparations generating salt taste, sweet taste and sourness), of which flavoring adjuncts can be or cannot be identified. Usually, these flavorings are not used directly for consumption. Flavorings contain food flavoring, feed flavoring, flavoring for the products on contact with the oral cavity and lip and the flavoring for tableware detergent.

#### **3.2 Flavoring (flavor compound) adjunct**

It refers to the food additives and food ingredients that are necessary for the production, storage and application of flavorings. All the food additives (excluding flavoring agents) are non-functioning in final aromatizing products.

#### **3.3 Date of manufacture**

It refers to the data when all the technical process of manufacture has been accomplished, the flavoring has been checked as qualified ultimate product.

#### **3.4 Date of expiration**

It refers to the time limit to retain the original quality of the flavorings under the storage condition specified on the label. During this time limit, the products are completely suitable for sales or usage.

#### **3.5 Principal display panel**

It refers to the panel on the packing or packing container that is most easily observed when users purchase flavorings.

### **4. Basic requirements**

**4.1** The entire contents of the flavoring labeling should be in conformity with provisions of the laws and regulations of the State and should be in conformity with the provisions of the respective standards of corresponding products.

**4.2** The entire contents of the flavoring labeling should be clear, easy to see and lasting; and should be easily identified and read when users purchase flavorings.

**4.3** The entire contents of the flavoring labeling should be easy to understand, accurate and scientific.

**4.4** The entire contents of the flavoring labeling should not be fraudulent.

**4.5** The entire contents of the flavoring labeling should not contain the language, graphics and symbols with direct or indirect suggestibility to mislead the users to confuse the product or a certain kind of property of the product that they purchase with another product.

**4.6** The flavoring labeling should not be separated from the packing (container).

**4.7** The contents of the flavoring labeling should be written in standard Chinese characters, excluding registered

trademarks.

4.7.1 Alphabetic writing and minority languages can be used simultaneously but should not be more than the corresponding Chinese characters.

4.7.2 Foreign languages can be used simultaneously, but should correspond with the Chinese characters (excluding the manufacturers and addresses of imported flavorings, the name, address and website of foreign distributors). The foreign language should not be larger than corresponding Chinese characters (excluding foreign registered trademarks).

**4.8** When the principal display panel of the packing or packing containers is larger than 20 cm<sup>2</sup>, the characters, the height of the symbols and figures in compulsory designation content should not be lower than 1.8 mm.

## **5. Designation Content**

**5.1** The labeling content of the package for the minimum single package

5.1.1 The compulsory designation content

5.1.1.1 Name and description of the products

5.1.1.1.1 The name and description used for flavorings should not lead to the misapprehension and confusion of the users and should be suitable for the fragrance, scent and the manufacturing techniques of the designated products. In case of the products with protocol specification, which will not be for sale on the market, they can be designated upon the user's demand. However, the compulsory designation contents must be clearly designated in the proposal.

5.1.1.1.2 "Food Additive" should be clearly marked in a clear position on the labeling.

5.1.1.2 Ingredients list

5.1.1.2.1 Ingredients list should be marked on flavoring labeling and the ingredients list should be entitled by "Ingredients" or "Allocation Sheet".

5.1.1.2.2 The food flavoring in the flavorings should be marked as "food flavoring" and need not be marked with exact names.

5.1.1.2.3 The flavoring adjuncts added in during the manufacture or processing of flavorings should be marked as "Food Flavoring Adjuncts".

5.1.1.2.4 The sweetening agent, coloring agent and caffeine added in flavorings should be marked with exact names in accordance with the normative designations defined in GB 2760.

5.1.1.3 Net Content

The net content should accord with the 75th Decree issued by General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China in 2005.

5.1.1.4 The name and address of the manufacturer, sub-packager and distributor.

5.1.1.4.1 The name and address, registered by law, of the manufacturer, sub-packager and distributor of the flavorings should be marked. In the event of any of the followings, it should be marked based on the following provisions. The products with protocol specification, which will not be for sales on the market, they can be designated upon the user's demand. However, the compulsory designation contents must be clearly designated in the proposal.

5.1.1.4.1.1 The group company or the branch (subsidiary) of the group company that bears the legal liability independently by law should mark their respective names and addresses.

5.1.1.4.1.2 The production base of the group company or the branch (subsidiary) of the group company that can't bear

the legal liability independently by law can be either marked with the name and address of the group company and the branch (production base), or with the name and address of the group company.

5.1.1.4.1.3 With regard to the flavorings processed on order of other units, yet not responsible for outside sales, the flavorings should be marked with the name and address of the authorized agencies.

5.1.1.4.2 The sub-packed flavorings should be labeled with the name and address of the sub-packager and the origin of the flavorings - where the place of origin should be marked with the regions at prefectural and city levels, according to administrative divisions while sub-packed imported flavorings should be marked with the country of origin (or region) - and should be marked with "Sub-packed".

5.1.1.4.3 The imported flavorings should be marked with the name of the country of origin or the name of region (referring to Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan), as well as the names and addresses of the agents, importers and distributors registered by law in China.

5.1.1.5 Date designation and storage instructions

5.1.1.5.1 The date of production and date of expiration should be clearly designated on the flavoring labeling. Date designation should not be pasted on in addition or falsified.

5.1.1.5.1.1 Designation of date of production

The date of production should be designated in order of year, month and date. For example, 2004 01 15 (separated by space character), or 20040115 (without separator), or 2004-01-15 (separated by hyphen), or Jan 15 2004. The code for the year should be 4 digits.

5.1.1.5.1.2 Designation of date of expiration

It should be designated with \_\_\_\_months until expiration or \_\_\_\_years until expiration, where the date of expiration should be designated in order of year, month and date. For example, 2004 01 15 (separated by space character), or 20040115(without separator), or 2004-01-15 (separated by hyphen), or Jan 15 2004. The code for the year should be 4 digits.

5.1.1.5.2 In case the date of expiration is concerned with the storage condition, the specific storage condition for the products should be designated.

5.1.1.6 Number of the standards for the products

The flavorings produced and sold at home (excluding imported flavorings) should be designated with the standard number of national standard, industry standard, local standard or registered enterprise standard that the manufacturers execute.

5.1.1.7 Number of license

The flavorings produced and sold at home (excluding imported flavorings) should be designated with the number of Food Hygiene License, industrial product production permit and relevant symbols.

5.1.1.8 Warning marks

"No direct human consumption" should be marked on flavoring labeling.

5.1.2 Specific requirements

5.1.2.1 The flavorings using genetically modified foods as raw materials should be clearly indicated in the ingredients list.

5.1.2.2 As for the irradiated products, "Irradiated" should be marked on the labeling.

5.1.3 Optional designation contents.

5.1.3.1 Batch number or code name

Each labeling or outer packing can be marked with the batch number or the code name of the product.

#### 5.1.3.2 Range of use, usage amount and use methods

The range of use, usage amount and use methods of the products can be marked on the flavoring labeling.

5.1.3.3 In order to avoid the fact that users may misunderstand or confuse the actual attribute, physical state and use methods of the flavorings, it is allowable to attach relevant words or phrases to the product name, either before or after, such as soluble flavoring, oil soluble flavoring, mixing powdered flavoring, microcapsule powdered flavoring, emulsifying flavoring, slurry (paste) flavoring and thermal reaction flavoring and so on.

#### 5.1.4 Optional labeling contents

In case that a certain piece of information or a picture neither conflicts with the compulsory requirements nor misleads or cheats the users in the aspect of flavorings in any way, such information or picture can be marked on the labeling.

### **5.2 The contents of the outer-packing labeling for the outer package of the minimum packed single**

Only the contents in Article 5.1.1.1, 5.1.1.3, 5.1.1.4, 5.1.1.5 and 5.1.1.7 are needed to be marked.

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END TRANSLATION