

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
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POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 2/18/2011

GAIN Report Number: KS1106

Korea - Republic of

Post: Seoul

Ingredient Disclosure Requirements

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

Approved By:

M. Kathryn Ting, Minister-Counselor

Prepared By:

Seung-Ah Chung / Michael G. Francom

Report Highlights:

This report clarifies the ingredient disclosure requirements for import clearance. Exact percentages are not required for each ingredient.

Labeling Requirements:

In response to USG questions, the Ministry of Health & Welfare (MHW) and the Korean Food & Drug Administration (KFDA) have separately confirmed in writing that exact percentages for each ingredient are not required for import clearance. In particular, MHW confirmed this in 1998 and KFDA later re-affirmed it in 2007.

We, however, periodically receive inquiries from the trade on this subject since some importers ask for this information without realizing that it's not required. The following describes what is generally needed in terms of ingredient disclosure.

Importers are required to submit the names of all the ingredients and only the percentages for the major ingredients and food additives for the purposes of product classification. This is explicitly stated on the government's official import application (see highlighted text in the next section). Based upon past experience, major ingredients include the top one or two ingredients by weight. For example, the major ingredient in bread would be flour.

The trade is advised to contact FAS/Seoul if there are any questions on this particular subject. Our contact information follows.

American Embassy Seoul

Office of Agricultural Affairs

Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Telephone: (011-82-2) 397-4297

Tel-Embassy: (011-82-2) 397-4114

Fax: (011-82-2) 738-7147

Email-FAS: agseoul@fas.usda.gov

Import Application:

[Attachment 3]

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Import notification for foods, etc.

Processing duration	Document inspection: 2 days Organoleptic inspection: 3 days Random sampling inspection: 5 days Laboratory inspection: 10 days (14 days for foods subject to incubation testing)
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(1) Notification type		A. Regular notification B. Pre-notification	(3) Receipt number	
(2) Product category		1. Agricultural/forest/livestock/marine products 2. Processed foods 3. Food additives 4. Equipment or containers/ packages	(4) Receipt date	Year/Month/Day
(5) Importer	Business registration No.		Name	
	Business name			
	Address			
(6) Manufacturer/processor	Business registration No.		Name	
	Business name			
	Address			

(7) Product name		(10) Total quantity reported	(unit:)
(8) Product name (in Korean)		(11) Total weight reported	Kg
(9) Total # of shipments		(12) Taxable value	(Unit: US\$)
(13) Shipment No.		(14) Cargo control No.	
(15) HSK No.		(16) Usage	
(17) Ingredient/material/manufacturing process	Please list on page 2		
(18) Shelf life	From (manufacturing date) (Year/Month/Date) To (Year/Month/Date)		

(19) Country of origin (country)					(20) Exporting country			
M					Company name			

Date of arrival val l	Year/Month/Date						
Ves se l (p l a n e) n a m e							
Ins p e c t i o n (s t o r a g e) l o c a t i o n							(Telephone)

D a t e o f g o o d s r e c e i v e d	Year/Month/Date			
I n s p e c t i o n a g e n c y				
Genetically modified food labeling		Labeled () Not-labeled ()		
Use of irradiation		Irradiated the finished product () Irradiated ingredients () Not applicable ()		
OEM Products		Yes () No ()		
<p>I hereby notify the above in accordance with Article 19 of the Food Sanitation Act and Article 12-1 of the Enforcement Decree of the Act.</p> <p style="margin-left: 200px;">Year/Month/Date</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">Notifier</p> <p style="margin-left: 300px;">(Signature or seal)</p> <p style="margin-left: 150px;">To the Head of the Regional KFDA</p>				

No	Material Code	Name of raw materials or name of material in direct contact with food	Composition (%)	No	Material Code	Name of raw materials or name of material in direct contact with food	Composition (%)
1				15			
2				16			
3				17			

