Changes for Product Labeling for Meats and Poultry with Added Solutions

Byline: Lisa Warfield

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Safety Inspection Service (USDA, FSIS) released a final ruling effective January 1, 2016, amending the regulations for descriptive designation for raw meat and poultry products containing added solutions (9 CFR Parts 317 and 381).

In 2011, the USDA FSIS proposed changes to the regulations due to complaints that consumers were being misled by the added solutions to poultry products. After a review of labels in the marketplace, the FSIS decided that packages of meat and poultry containing added solutions may not have been labeled clearly, and consumers were not aware of how much and what was being added to the product. For example, the name for both a single ingredient chicken breast and a chicken breast with added solution is labeled as “chicken breast,” even though one is 100% chicken, and the other is not, due to the added solution. Although the labeling of the product must include a statement that reflects the fact the product contains added solution, this may not be apparent to consumers. Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), labeling of meat and poultry must be truthful and not misleading. The labels must accurately disclose to consumers what they are buying. Also, the FMIA Act states labels for meat and poultry must be approved by the USDA, FSIS.

To align with FMIA Act, FSIS now requires the common or usual name of the product including the percentage of the ingredients of the added solution be identified on the label. This descriptive information is required to appear as part of the product name and on the principal display panel (PDP). The descriptor must be clear and conspicuous and appear as a numerical value with the percent symbol (%). The descriptive designation must include the percentage of added solution, and the individual ingredients or multi-ingredient components in the solution listed in descending order of predominance by weight. The percent solution must appear as a number (e.g., 15, 20, 30) with the percentage sign (%) and may be declared with the word “containing” or “contains.” The print for all words in the product name, including the descriptive designation, must appear in a single, easy-to-read font and color on a single-color contrasting background. The print may appear in upper and lower case letters, with the lower case letters not smaller than one-third (1/3) the size of the largest letter. Under the final rule, the word “enhanced” is not (continued on pg 2)
allowed to appear with the product name. This change will be applicable on January 1, 2018.

The new rules will result in providing consumers with information on added solutions. Sample labels illustrating this change are provided below. The ruling also removes the standard of identity regulation for “ready-to-cook poultry products to which solutions are added.”

Any questions concerning this ruling should be addressed to Ms. Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director, FSIS, USDA – Labeling and Delivery Program at (301) 504-0879.

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**Figure 1. Label example -**
The product name includes a descriptive designation at one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the size of the largest letter (9 CFR 317.2(e)(2)(iv)) and a multi-ingredient component (Teriyaki Sauce). All ingredients in the product are declared in separate ingredients statement (9 CFR 317.2(e)(2)(iii)).

**Figure 2. Label example -**
The product name includes a descriptive designation at one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the size of the largest letter (9 CFR 317.2(e)(2)(iv)) and includes the word “contains” (9 CFR 317.2(e)(2)(i)). The individual ingredients in the solution are listed in descending order of predominance by weight (9 CFR 317.2(e)(2)(ii), followed by a vignette of the product.

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4 Label shown using the one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) font size requirement applicable January 1, 2018.
5 Label shown using the one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) font size requirement applicable effective January 1, 2018.

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**Training and Events Calendar 2015**

Registration for training in the NIST Office of Weights and Measures is handled by Yvonne Branden at yvonne.branden@nist.gov.

Course descriptions can be viewed on the Office of Weights and Measures website at [http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/calendar.cfm](http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/calendar.cfm) and clicking on the name of the course.

- July 19 - 23 (5 days)
  National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) Annual Meeting
  Philadelphia, PA
  Contact:  info@ncwm.net

- July 19 - 23 (5 days)
  NCSL International Conference 2015
  Metrology and the Quality of Life
  Grapevine, TX
  Information:  [www.ncsli.org](http://www.ncsli.org)

- August 10 - 14 (5 days) (FULL)
  Fundamentals of Metrology
  Class No. 5373
  NIST/Gaithersburg, MD

- August 13 (2 hr)
  Webinar - Contract Review
  2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
  Class No. 5334

- August 17 - 21 (5 days)
  Volume Metrology Seminar
  Class No. 5356
  NIST/Gaithersburg, MD

- August 19 - 20 (2 days)
  NTEP Grain Analyzer Sector Meeting
  Live Web Meeting
  Details unavailable at this time.
  Information to be posted at: [https://www.ncwm.net/ntep/sectors/grain-analyzer/registration](https://www.ncwm.net/ntep/sectors/grain-analyzer/registration)

- August 25 - 26 (2 days)
  Weighing Sector Meeting
  Denver, CO
  Information at: [http://www.ncwm.net/sems/event_detail/2015_weighing](http://www.ncwm.net/sems/event_detail/2015_weighing)

- August 27 (2 hr)
  Webinar - Document Control and Record Keeping
  2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
  Class No. 5335

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Technical Correction to NIST Handbook 133, 2015 Edition

Section 4.7. Baler Twine – Test Procedure for Length

Issue: In 1992 the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) adopted a test procedure for verifying the declared length on packages of baler twine that is in Section 4.7. “Baler Twine – Test Procedure for Length” in NIST Handbook 133 (2015) “Checking the Net Contents of Packaged Goods.” National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Office of Weights and Measures (OWM) recently compared the NIST Handbook 133 test procedure to the industry standard for baling twine (refer to ANSI/ASAE S315.4 (2011) “Agricultural Baling Twine for Automatic Balers”) to ensure that the procedures were consistent. In review, we found that tension required in Section 4.7. was inconsistent with the tension requirement in the industry standard. In NIST Handbook 133, the tension requirement is 4.53 kg (10 lb) while the tension requirement in ANSI/ASAE S315.4 is 1 kg (2.2 lb). If the current tension requirement in NIST Handbook 133 (2015) is used, the result will be inaccurate since the twine will become overstretched. In researching the history of the procedure, the source of the discrepancy was in the original proposal. OWM contacted the source of the original proposal and confirmed that an error was made in the original tension value, and it was agreed it should have been 1 kg (2.2 lb), the same value as stated in the industry standard.

Corrective Action: OWM will editorially correct the tension requirement to read 1 kg (2.2 lb) in Section 4.7. “Baler Twine – Test Procedure” in the next edition of NIST Handbook 133 and note the change in the “Table of Amendments for 2016” that will be included in the 2016 edition. OWM published a correction notice on the NIST Handbook 133 webpage at: http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/pubs/hb133.cfm.

Corrected Test Procedure Shown Below

4.7. Baler Twine – Test Procedure for Length

4.7.1. Test Equipment

- A scale that meets the requirements in Section 2.2. “Measurement Standards and Test Equipment.”

NOTE: A scale with 0.1 g (0.000 2 lb) increments must be used for weighing twine samples. The recommended minimum load for weighing samples is 20 divisions.

- Steel tapes and rules – Determine measurements of length to the nearest division of the appropriate tape or rule.


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Metric units:

For labeled dimensions 40 cm or less, linear measure: 30 cm in length, 1 mm divisions; or a 1 m rule with 0.1 mm divisions, overall length tolerance of 0.4 mm.

For labeled dimensions greater than 40 cm, 30 m tape with 1 mm divisions.

U.S. customary units:

For labeled dimensions 25 in or less, use a 36 in rule with 1/64 in or 1/100 in divisions and an overall length tolerance of 1/64 in.

For dimensions greater than 25 in, use a 100 ft tape with 1/16 in divisions and an overall length tolerance of 0.1 in.

- A hand-held straight-face spring scale of at least 4.53 kg (10 lb) capacity or a cordage-testing device that applies the specified tension to the twine being measured. When measuring twine samples or total roll length, apply 4.53 kg (10 lb) of tension to the twine.

4.7.2. Test Procedure

1. Follow Section 2.3.1. “Define the Inspection Lot.” Use a “Category A” sampling plan in the inspection; select a random sample.

2. Select packages for tare samples. Determine gross weights of the initial tare sample and record.

3. Open the tare samples. Use the procedures for tare determination in Section 2.3.5.1. “Determination of Tare Sample and Average Tare Weight” to compute the average tare weight and record this value.

4. Randomly select four balls of twine from the packages that were opened for tare.

From each of the four balls of twine:

> Measure and discard the first 10.05 m (33 ft) of twine from each roll. Accurate measurement requires applying tension to the ends of the twine before measuring in order to straighten the product.

> Take two 30.48 m (100 ft) lengths of twine from inside each roll.

> Weigh and record the weight of each piece separately and record the values. Compare the weight values to determine the variability of the samples. If the individual

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weights of the eight twine samples vary by more than one division on the scale, use one of the following steps: (1) if the lot is short, determine the actual length of the lightest-weight roll found in the lightest-weight package of the lot to confirm that the weight shortages reflect the shortages in the length of the rolls; or (2) determine the average weight-per-unit-of-measure by taking ten 30.48 m (100 ft) lengths from inside the lightest weight package. Use this value to recalculate its length and determine lot compliance.

5. Weigh all of the sample lengths together and record the total value. Determine the total length of the samples (243.8 m or 800 ft, unless more than eight sample-lengths were taken) and record the value. Compute the average weight-per-unit-of-length by dividing the total weight by the total length of the pieces.

6. Determine the MAV for a package of twine (refer to Appendix A, Table 2-8. “Maximum Allowable Variations for Packages Labeled by Length, (Width), or Area”).

> Record the total declared package length.

> Multiply the MAV from Appendix A, Table 2-8. “Maximum Allowable Variations for Packages Labeled by Length, (Width), or Area” times the total package length to obtain the MAV for the length and record this value.

> Multiply the weight per unit of length (from Step 4) times the MAV for the total declared package length to obtain the MAV by weight and record this value.

> Convert the MAV to dimensionless units and record.

7. Calculate the nominal gross weight and record.

Follow Section 2.3.6. “Determine Nominal Gross Weight and Package Error” to determine individual package errors. Determine errors using the following formula:

\[
\text{Package error (weight)} = (\text{package gross weight}) - (\text{nominal gross weight})
\]

> To convert the package error in weight back to length, divide the weight by the average weight-per-unit-of-length.

4.7.3. Evaluation of Results

Follow the procedures in Section 2.3.7. “Evaluate for Compliance” to determine lot compliance.
FAQ – HOW DO I REGISTER FOR AN OWM TRAINING EVENT?

Byline: Elizabeth Gentry

The Office of Weights and Measures (OWM) have published two resources to help customers enroll in training events. The Quick Guide for Requesting Training provides an overview of the registration process (see Figure 1 on page 8, or http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/upload/Quick-Guide-for-Requesting-Training.pdf) and the How to Request Training & Transcript Using the Contacts System provides step-by-step enrollment instructions, including how to request a training transcript after you’ve completed a class (http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/upload/InstructionsHowToRequestTrainingTranscripts.pdf).

OWM promotes upcoming training events in a variety of ways, including promotional fliers, e-mail announcements, the Weights and Measures Connections newsletter, and the OWM Calendar of Events webpage. You’re encouraged to register as soon as possible to ensure a seat is held in your name. Classes may be added, cancelled, or rescheduled based on requests and registrations.

When visiting the online OWM Calendar of Events, simply click on the Event Name and the URL link will connect to an individual class webpage that provides event specifics, such as the class number, learning objectives, prerequisites, pre-work assignments, instructor(s), and other important information (http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/calendar.cfm). It’s helpful to note the four-digit Class Number for any class you are interested in taking because it can help you quickly register once you’ve logged into the OWM Contacts System.

Step A: Register in the OWM Contacts System

Each interested participant must register for a class using the OWM Contacts System (https://tsapps.nist.gov/WMD/default.aspx). If you don’t already have an individual account, it’s easy to establish a new account. Visit the link above, select the REGISTER button, and follow the online instructions. New accounts are usually activated within one business day. Once you receive your User ID and Password, you’re ready to register for training using the system. If you’ve forgotten your user ID or password, select the RESET PASSWORD button to contact OWM for assistance (http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/upload/InstructionsHowToRequestResetPassword-web.pdf). Ms. Isabel Chavez, OWM Contacts System Administrator, is available to help with this process and to answer your questions at (301) 975-2128 or isabel.chavez@nist.gov.

Step B: Request Training

Use your confirmed user ID and password to log into the OWM Contacts System (https://tsapps.nist.gov/WMD/default.aspx) and select the MY TRAINING tab, where you can select the REGISTER FOR A CLASS option. There are several ways to find a scheduled training event, including searching by class number (listed on the online Calendar of Events), course number, course type, or topic. Once you’ve identified the class in which you want to participate, select the SUBMIT button and follow the online instructions.

When the minimum class size has been achieved and if there are available class seats, your training request will be processed by OWM, and you’ll receive an e-mail registration Acknowledgement. For some classes, OWM staff must also evaluate course prerequisites, which will add to the time needed to respond to your training request. If course prerequisites are not met, the training request will be denied.

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If a class is full, you may ask to be placed on the waiting list for that course. If a cancellation occurs, OWM will notify you that you’ve been accepted into the class. If you choose a course where no classes have been scheduled, your request will be used to help OWM plan future training events.

As the date of the training event approaches, OWM will contact you with a separate Confirmation communication (letter and/or e-mail), which will include travel and lodging information, tuition payment instructions for fee-supported events, pre-work assignments, and other important details. Ms. Yvonne Branden, OWM Training Coordinator, is available to help with this process and to answer your questions and can be reached at (301) 975-3272 or yvonne.branden@nist.gov.

Please explore the current listing of available training and register for one of the many classes designed to support your ongoing professional development. OWM instructors look forward to your participation during an upcoming training event!

(see Figure 1. Steps for Registration on pg 8)
Steps for Registration in the OWM Contacts System for Training

A. Register for OWM Contacts System

1. Participant submits registration

2a. OWM Approves Registration
   OWM Contacts System sends participant confirmation of the user ID and password

   2b. Duplicate: Account Already Exists
       Within one business day

3b. OWM Contacts System resets and sends participant user ID and password

B. Request Training

4. How to Request Training/Transcripts (PDF)

5. Using confirmed ID and password, participant requests training

6. OWM approves training request after enrollment closing date

7. Participant is NOW registered and will receive future communications concerning each class

Once training requests are approved, confirmation letters are sent:
- Usually 6 to 8 weeks prior for Seminar
- Usually 3 to 4 weeks prior for Webinar

If a confirmation letter is needed prior to this, please contact Yvonne Branden at yvonne.branden@nist.gov

Figure 1. Steps for Registration

Happy Birthday America!