

Food Labelling for Greengrocers

This Leaflet Covers

The labelling of fruit and vegetables which are:

- displayed for sale in a loose or unwrapped state; or
- pre-packed for sale from those same premises; or
- pre-packed for sale by the packer on his market stalls or mobile vehicles.

This Leaflet Does Not Cover

The Labelling of fruit and vegetables pre-packed for sale from premises other than the last two items above.

Required Labelling

This should be on a notice, on the food, which is clear and conspicuous to customers.

- The true **name of the food**

Potatoes and **melons** must also be marked with their **variety** (e.g. Maris Piper Potatoes, Ogen Melons).

- **Irradiation**

Food or ingredients that have been irradiated must be declared and labelled 'irradiated' or 'treated with ionising radiation'.

Other Food Labelling Issues

* **EC Grading Requirements**

Most fruit and vegetables are required by EC Grading Legislation to be labelled with their Class and country of origin and may also need a variety. Rural Payment Agency (RPA) Horticulture Inspectors are responsible for the enforcement of these requirements. More information can be found at www.rpa.gov.uk and clicking the HMI link.

* **Place of Origin**

The place of origin should be marked if failure to do so would be misleading. (This may be a more local description than country of origin, e.g. English Strawberries or Tasmanian Apples)

* **Waxed Fruit**

Fruit which has been waxed must be labelled as such.

* **Additives**

Some prepared salads, dried fruit and peeled potatoes are treated with preservative solution to keep them fresh. These must be labelled 'contains preservative'.

* **Organic**

Organic fruit and vegetables can only come from producers, importers or processors that have been inspected and approved by a body authorised by the Government. Food from any other sources is not 'organic' and to describe it as such is an offence.

* **Beetroot** that has been dipped in vinegar should be labelled as such.

Other Labelling

Other legal requirements may affect your labelling (e.g. weight marking, price indications, unit price etc). These are covered in other leaflets.

This leaflet is not an authoritative interpretation of the law and is intended only for guidance.