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Proposed Changes to Nutrition Labelling Regulations Published

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Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

Health Canada published proposed changes to the Canadian nutrition labelling regulations on June 13, 2015, in the Canada Gazette Part I. The proposed changes affect aspects of the Nutritional Facts Table and the lists of ingredients including mandating how serving sizes are to be declared, updates to daily values, and the way food colors are listed in the list of ingredients. The deadline to provide feedback is August 26, 2015.

Proposed Changes to Nutrition Labelling Regulations Published

Health Canada's proposed changes to the nutrition labelling regulations of the Food and Drug Regulations are now open for comment. The proposed changes were published in the Canada Gazette Part I on June 13, 2015. The Canada Gazette is the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. Federal Register, and is the official newspaper of the government of Canada. Published within the Canada Gazette are proposed regulations, new statutes and regulations, and other government notices. Publication in Gazette Part I gives the public and interested stakeholders a final opportunity to review and comment on a proposed regulation before it is signed and published in Part II. (Earlier consultations on the new nutrition regulation were described in CA 14068 and CA 14072.)

The proposed changes to Canadian nutritional labelling regulations affect aspects of the Nutrition Facts table (NFt) and the list of ingredients including:

- 1. mandating how serving sizes are to be declared,
- 2. changes to the reference amounts,
- 3. updates to the Daily Values,
- 4. changes to the format and the list of core nutrients,
- 5. changes to sugar labelling,
- 6. legibility requirements for the list of ingredients, and
- 7. changes to the way food colors are listed in the list of ingredients.

The Government of Canada's stated intention is to update the nutrition labelling regulations in order to improve the ability of Canadians to make informed choices about the food they consume to maintain or improve their health. The proposed regulations and the regulatory impact analysis statement can be found at the following URL:

http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2015/2015-06-13/html/reg1-eng.php

The deadline for providing feedback is August 26, 2015. Feedback regarding the proposed regulations can be provided by writing or faxing to Dana Wang at the address below or by sending an email to the following email address: LRM MLR consultations@hc-sc.gc.ca

Dana Wang
Policy, Planning and International Affairs Directorate
Health Products and Food Branch
Health Canada
Holland Cross, Tower B, 5th Floor
1600 Scott Street
Ottawa, Ontario
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<u>Webinars for Stakeholders:</u> Health Canada has also scheduled a series of webinars to provide an overview of the proposed regulatory changes, and to give stakeholders a chance to ask questions. The

same information will be presented at each webinar, however, participants are asked to pre-register.

The English webinars will take place on the following dates:

Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 1:00 pm EST Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 10:00 am EST

Please register for session using hyperlinks below:

Thursday, June 25 at 1:00 pm EST

https://gts-ee.webex.com/mw0307l/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=gts-

ee&nomenu=true&main url=/mc0806l/e.do?siteurl%3Dgts-

ee%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D284898612%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAAKWTrO9

paAmkT0nKPmQxJHQgiOIaIvgai -3KMAHfeNP4tEWK-

yIJNTeYwnTd0vDgmAk5RLxB5N5DOgCvUWZ co0%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2

Wednesday, July 8 at 10:00 am EST

https://gts-ee.webex.com/mw0307l/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=gts-

ee&nomenu=true&main_url=%2Fmc08061%2Fe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Dgts-

ee%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D284898932%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DOUhTSwAAAALA6Z1ac

EgbOppcl9QFGcbeIs2lHO3MBy2TuvmRXgoDuo6j-0X_LmU77bsvRQBeGks4C4HEBd4Ottw-j-

SvB2RN0%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2

It is the intention of the Canadian Government to complete these regulatory changes *before* the federal elections in October, 2015. These proposed regulations will be passed by Order in Council and therefore do not require a vote in Parliament. The coming into force date in the proposed regulations is 5 years after the day the final rule is published in Part II of the Canada Gazette. Therefore, the proposed changes will likely become required sometime in the fall of 2020.

Canada has also notified these proposed changes to the WTO.