

GROUND BEEF AND FRESH SAUSAGE MANUFACTURING AND LABELING / DELI LABELING

The following extracts are from the Pennsylvania Food Law (ACT 70) and USDA information. By using these extracts you will be assuring yourself and the consumer of a quality product that is in compliance with the Pennsylvania Code.

Fresh Sausage

Fresh sausage is made from finely chopped beef and/or pork and various amounts of seasonings. Sausage is sold in casing or bulk form.

Fresh Sausage May Contain

1. Added water not to exceed 3 percent (for mixing purposes only)
2. Seasonings (salt, spices, sugar, etc.)
3. USDA approved pre-mixes.

Fresh Sausage May Not Contain

1. Any preservatives including sulfites; artificial coloring; phosphates.
2. More than 50 percent fat in the case of fresh pork sausage; not more than 30 percent fat for fresh beef sausage.
3. More than 3 percent added water.

Fresh Sausage Labeling

Fresh sausage sold at retail including individual packages and that sold from bulk, such as from a deli case, must have an ingredient declaration including added water if used.

During manufacturing, no more than three pounds net of added water may be added to each 100 pounds of fresh sausage made. For smaller batches this may be decreased proportionately. Example: Not more than 1.5 pounds net for a 50 pound batch; not more than 0.3 pounds for a 10 pound batch.

Ground Beef/Hamburgers

Ground Beef May Contain

1. Seasonings

Ground Beef May Not Contain

1. More than 30 percent fat
2. Any preservatives including sulfites
3. Paprika, added water, binders*, extenders*.

*Binders or *extenders may be added to ground beef; however, the product then becomes a "beef pattie," not hamburger or ground beef and must be labeled as such.

Ground Beef Labeling

1. REGULAR GROUND BEEF: No NLEA Nutrition Facts Required. Note: % fat must be declared when labeled with % lean. Maximum % fat is 30%.

Ground Beef

Ground Beef ____% Fat

Ground Beef ____% Lean ____% Fat

Ground Beef Maximum Fat ____%

2. LEAN, EXTRA LEAN GROUND BEEF **must have fat content labeling.** No NLEA Nutrition Facts Required.

Lean Ground Beef ____% Lean ____% Fat

Extra Lean Ground Beef ____% Lean ____% Fat

When ground beef and hamburger are labeled as “lean” or “extra lean,” they must have at least a 25% reduction in fat from the regulatory standard of 30% fat (i.e., they can contain no more than 22.5% fat).

3. GROUND CHUCK, ROUND OR SIRLOIN must consist exclusively of that meat; ground respectively from the chuck, round or sirloin. If meat, from any other part of the animal, is added the product can no longer be labeled ground chuck, round, or sirloin.

NOTE:

1. No ground beef, chuck, etc., grind may contain more than 30% fat.
2. If any grind is labeled with any form of percent fat declaration it must contain no more than that amount; if grind is labeled “lean,” “extra-lean,” etc., it must also comply with fat and labeling requirements noted above for those particular grinds.
3. Periodic ground meat surveys are conducted to ensure compliance.

Deli Labeling (includes non-meat examples)

Labeling must accurately reflect the product. A good practice is to label the product as it is identified on the approved label as packaged at the original manufacturing plant.

EXAMPLES:

1. Cooked Ham, Water Added: label as such. May not be labeled “boiled ham.”
2. Cooked/Chopped/glazed Ham and Water Product. No portion of product name may be omitted.
3. Label as “picnic” or “shoulder.” Do not label as “picnic ham,” as this refers to two different types of meat.
4. Lower Salt/No Salt Added Meats. Must be same as USDA approved label. Do Not label “low salt,” as they probably are not.

5. Scallops and Water Product. Must be labeled as such.
6. Imitation Crabmeat (Seafood) Salad. Must be labeled as such.
7. Bulk deli salads containing artificial coloring and/or preservatives must be place carded as such, with FD&C #5 coloring specifically identified.
8. Products containing sulfites, e.g. dried fruit, must be labeled as such.

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