

Beef Labelling

Guidance on beef labelling under Compulsory Beef Labelling Scheme and Approved Beef Labelling Scheme

Beef and Veal Labelling Regulations 2010

(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/983/contents/made>)

The Beef Labelling Scheme is a European Union (EU) system requiring specific information to be provided to consumers. This traceable information gives the origin of the beef or veal.

Certain prescribed information is compulsory for fresh and frozen beef and veal at all stages in the supply chain, from slaughter to final retail. Other information may be applied to these products under the 'Approved Beef Labelling System'. These provisions do not apply to cooked beef or cooked veal products.

This information must be provided in writing, either affixed to the meat or the packaging, or for non pre-packed meat, in writing visible to the ultimate consumer at the point of sale.

Compulsory information:

Information which must be provided on all fresh and frozen beef and veal products (Member State means Member State of the EU):

- a reference number or code
- the name of the Member State or non-EU country in which the animal or group of animals were born
- the name of the Member State or non-EU country in which the animal or group of animals were raised
- 'slaughtered in: [name of Member State or non-EU country]'
- licence number of the slaughterhouse*
- 'cutting/cut in: [name of Member State or non-EU country]'
- licence number(s) of the cutting plant(s)*

*Not required at retail sale to public of loose (non pre-packed) beef or veal products

Std22 04/12



Where compulsory information is not available for meat imported from a non-EU country, the labelling must show at least the words 'Origin: Non-EU and slaughtered in (name of non-EU country)'. You should also show a traceable reference number or code if the meat is cut or repackaged after import.

Where animals have been born, raised and slaughtered in the same Member State or non-EU country then the second and third compulsory requirements above can be replaced by a declaration 'Origin: [name of Member State]' or 'Origin: [name of non-EU country]'. More information about this is available from the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) website ([http://rpa.defra.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/15f3e119d8abcb5480256ef20049b53a/f8cf28108ff1990680257528002e1006/\\$FILE/ATTH8AYW/Non%20UK%20animals.pdf](http://rpa.defra.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/15f3e119d8abcb5480256ef20049b53a/f8cf28108ff1990680257528002e1006/$FILE/ATTH8AYW/Non%20UK%20animals.pdf)).

Compulsory information for pre-packed cut beef and veal:

Pre-packed cut beef and veal can be sold with meat from a maximum of three slaughterhouses or cutting plants in the same package. The labelling on these packages must show:

- slaughterhouse licence number and country of slaughter for each of the relevant member states or non-EU countries of origin, shown as 'Animals in the group slaughtered in [name of Member State or non-EU country of slaughter]'
- country of cutting and cutting plant licence number for each appropriate member state or non-EU country of cutting, shown as 'Cutting of meat in batch in: [name of Member State or non-EU country of cutting]'

Compulsory information for non pre-packed cut beef and veal:

For non pre-packed beef and veal, the requirements are the same regarding mixing batches from a maximum of three slaughterhouses or cutting plants. The information that must be provided to the final consumer is country of birth, rearing, slaughter and cutting. This information should be provided in such a way that consumers can clearly see which information relates to which meat without confusion.

Operators must keep a daily dated record of licence numbers of the slaughterhouses and cutting plants relating to the meat for sale. This must be produced to consumers on request.

Compulsory information for minced beef:

- traceability reference number or code
- Member State or non-EU country of slaughter
- Member State or non-EU country of mincing
- country of origin (from birth to slaughter) if different to country of mincing

You may also include any of the compulsory information for fresh beef and veal products listed earlier in this guidance.

Minced beef from two or more countries of origin cannot be mixed by cutting plants.

Minced beef can be mixed with offal from the same country, and it must then be marked with all compulsory information.

Compulsory information for trimmings:

- country of slaughter
- country of production
- countries of birth and rearing

If all the above are the same country then the labelling may read 'Country of origin: 'XXX' in which birth rearing and slaughter took place'.

Products with Protected Designation of Origin and products of Protected Geographical Indication:

These must show all compulsory information listed at the start of this leaflet. More information on protected food names is available on the Defra website (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/food/protected-names/>).

Beef and veal from animals under 12 months old:

- these animals must be categorised at slaughter with reference 'V' for animals under 8 months old, and 'Z' for animals between 8 and 12 months old
- they must be marketed according to their designated names in the EU - in the UK, animals with a 'V' code under 8 months are required to be described as veal - animals with a 'Z' code aged between 8 and 12 months must be described as beef
- these requirements also apply to offal

- meat and offal from animals under 12 months must be labelled accordingly 'age on slaughter: 8-12 months' or 'age on slaughter: up to 12 months' at each stage of production or sale, but this can be abbreviated to 'V' or 'Z' until retail to the final consumer
- the term 'Rose Veal' for beef from animals between 8 and 12 months old can only be used under the Approved Labelling Scheme (see below) - offal must also be described appropriately, e.g. 'calves' liver' may only be used to describe liver from animals under 8 months
- offal from different aged animals may be mixed, but must be labelled with the appropriate information for both sources - beef or veal meat from 'V' and 'Z' coded animals may not be mixed
- the meat should be labelled with the appropriate description for the member state in which it is to be sold, and it is therefore possible to have two or more labels with appropriate descriptions

Approved Beef Labelling Scheme:

Most other information in addition to the compulsory information listed above must be approved under the Approved Beef Labelling Scheme before it is used. This information would include details regarding breed, style of rearing, halal claims, or region of origin, amongst many others. The majority of statutory information will not need approval, e.g. health mark, use by date, weight, etc.

The Rural Payments Agency provides a government approved list of independent verifiers, and in order to use claims in addition to the compulsory information you need to employ an approved verifier to vet your claim. To apply for Beef Labelling Approval, you need to contact the RPA to fill out an application pack and arrange an inspection.

Full detailed guidance on the Compulsory Beef Labelling Scheme and the Approved Labelling Scheme is available on the RPA website (<http://www.rpa.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/UIMenu/82B7E979CF32287280256F72003DBAFF?Opendocument>). Its guidance also provides sample labels and display information.

Businesses in England only can contact the RPA as follows:

Meat Technical Schemes (MTS)
Rural Payments Agency (RPA)
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street
Carlisle CA3 8DX

Telephone: 01228 640469
Fax: 01228 640524
E-mail: mts.carlisle@rpa.gsi.gov.uk

Where can I get further help?

This leaflet is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance. For further details or clarification contact Derbyshire Trading Standards at:

Chatsworth Hall
Chesterfield Road
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3FW

Telephone:
Businesses: Call Derbyshire 08 456 058 058
Consumers: Citizens Advice consumer helpline 08454 040506

Fax: 01629 536197

Website: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards

We want everyone to be able to understand us. On request, we will arrange:

- Language interpreters, including for sign language
- Translation of written materials into other languages
- Materials in large print, on tape or in Braille

© Trading Standards Institute

To ensure that you are looking at the most up-to-date version of this leaflet, please visit our website at http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/std22_tcm9-8346.pdf or telephone us on 01629 536166.

