

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

FOOD

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USDA REQUIRES NUTRITION FACTS ON 40 MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

On 29 December 2010 the U.S. Department of Agricultural Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA FSIS) announced that by 1 January 2012 it will mandate nutrition facts panels on the packages or available at the point of purchase to the consumers for 40 of the most popular cuts of meat and poultry.¹

Under the new rule, packages of ground beef or chopped meat and poultry will be required to have nutrition facts on the packages including the number of calories as well as the grams of total fat and saturated fat. Additionally single ingredient items of whole, raw cuts of the most popular meats and poultry items will require having the nutrition facts on the packages or be made available at the point of purchase to the consumers.

Examples of the popular cuts of raw single ingredient meat and poultry products are whole or boneless chicken breast, beef whole cuts such as brisket or tenderloin steak and ground or chopped poultry such as hamburger and ground turkey.

This was a voluntary requirement under the Nutritional Labeling and Education Act of 1990 and will become mandatory with this rule making.

Additionally this rulemaking will require that an item which list a percentage lean on its label that it will also be required to list the percentage of fat with the lean statement. Example if the products states 80% Lean it must state 20% Fat next to the lean statement in the same type size, color, style and background. The purpose of the rule is to make available to the consumers sufficient information so they can make healthy life style choices for them and their families.

SGS will follow up and keep interested parties informed as developments on US legislation occur. Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing, auditing, inspections and consultancy of food articles for the US and worldwide markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

¹ [Nutrition Labeling of Single-Ingredient Products and Ground or Chopped Meat and Poultry Products](#)

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