

## Labelling, Pricing And Weighing For Greengrocers

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.

### ***Required Labelling***

This should be on a notice, or adjacent to 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***

- **EU Grading Requirements**

Most fruit and vegetables are required by EU Grading Legislation to be labelled with their Class and may also need labelling with Country of Origin and Variety. DEFRA Horticulture Inspectors are responsible for the enforcement of these requirements. More information can be found at [www.defra.gov.uk/hort/hmi.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/hort/hmi.htm).

- **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.

## ***Greengrocers And Weights And Measures Law***

The laws of weights and measures also apply to you. Below is a brief summary to help you understand what the law says about the way you are required to sell green produce.

### ***Must I Sell All Loose Fruit And Vegetables By Weight?***

As a general rule, yes. These are certain items listed below which can be sold by number or by bunch.

Non pre-packed items must be sold by reference to price per kilogram (the unit price) and this price must be indicated on or near the goods. You may also show the price per pound but the metric indication must be more prominent.

To calculate a unit price for a pound, the price per kilogram should be multiplied by 0.4536.

To calculate a unit price for ¼ lb, the price per 100g should be multiplied by 1.134.

If you wish to sell by gross weight ; if the pack has a gross weight of 500g or less the container (bag, tray, box etc) must weigh no more than 5 g and for items with a gross weight above 500g the container can weigh no more than 10g per kilogram of the gross weight, e.g. if the pack weighs 900g the container itself can weigh no more than 9g.

### ***Are There Any Variations I Should Know About?***

There are some variations. These are:

#### Potatoes

Loose potatoes can be sold by either net, or gross weight. If you sell them by gross weight the wrapper must be within the weight limits mentioned above.

**If I sold pre-packed?** – Potatoes must now be packed in metric quantities of 500g, 750g, 1kg, 1.5kg, 2kg, 2.5kg and multiples of 2.5kg only, although bags containing very large potatoes (over 175g each) can be sold by number rather than weight.

All bags of pre-packed potatoes must indicate a marked weight or number.

#### Soft Fruits and Mushrooms

Soft fruits such as blackberries, cherries, raspberries and strawberries, must be sold either by net or gross weight. Again, if sold by gross weight, containers – such as punnets, must not weigh more than indicated in the table below. The same rule applies to the sale of mushrooms.

250g or less	120g per kg of the gross weight
More than 250g – 1kg	100g per kg of the gross weight
More than 1kg – 3kg	90g per kg of the gross weight
More than 3kg	60g per kg of the gross weight

### ***Must Customers Know The Weight Of Produce Before They Buy?***

Yes, you must make the weight known to the buyer before payment is made. This can be done in one of four ways:

- By weighing the goods in front of the customer – the scales must be clearly visible.
- By marking the weight on the packet
- By giving your customer the weight in writing perhaps by using a combined weight and price ticket.
- By stating the weight on a display notice.

### ***Are There Any Special Rules To Look Out For?***

Yes there are, although all loose fruit and vegetables must be sold by net or gross weight, there is an exception known as “countable produce”, which at a price per item may be sold by number up to 8 in a bag. Another exception to the general sale by weight rule is certain produce listed below.

<u>Countable Produce</u>			
Apples	Celery	Lettuce	Pears
Apricots	Coconuts	Limes	Pineapple
Artichokes (Globe)	Corn of the cob	Mangoes	Plums
Aubergines	Cucumber	Marrows	Pomegranates
Avocados	Fennel	Melons	Pomelo
Bananas	Figs (fresh)	Nectarines	Pumpkins
Beetroots (inc cooked)	Garlic	Onions (except spring)	Radishes
Cabbage	Grapefruit	Oranges	Shaddock
Cauliflower	Guavas	Passion Fruit	Soft Citrus Fruits
Capsicum	Kiwi Fruit	Pawpaw	Tomatoes
	Kohlrabi	Peaches	Ugli
	Lemons		

<u>Vegetables which may be sold by the bunch</u>		
Asparagus	Parsley	Radishes
Beetroots	Garlic	Salad cress
Carrots	Mint	Turnips
Chives	Mustard and cress	Watercress
Endives	Onions (Inc spring)	

Pre-packed fruit and vegetables must be sold by net weight, or in the case of countable produce, by number. The pack must be clearly marked with the contents. Up to eight countable produce can be sold in a transparent container, without being marked.

### ***Weighing Machines***

All weighing machines used to weigh or pre-pack fruit and vegetables must be of an approved type and carry either an approval mark, or inspector’s stamp, to show that they have been properly tested.

For non pre-packed items, the unit price must be indicated either on or near the goods, or on a price list.