

Sandwich Labelling

This leaflet covers

Sales of loose or unwrapped sandwiches – those pre-packed for sale on the same premises and pre-packed for sale elsewhere. Sandwich includes: roll, bap, baguette, pitta and similar products.

Catering Establishments

i.e. premises at which the sandwiches are prepared (this includes pubs, restaurants, cafes, takeaways and sandwich bars).

Provided that no claims are made, no labelling at all is required on these sandwiches unless:

- i. the sandwich or any ingredient has been irradiated, or
- ii the sandwich contains any ingredient which contains genetically modified material.

In which case the sandwich must be appropriately labelled to the effect that it has been irradiated or treated with ionising radiation and/or that it contains genetically modified material.

Many caterers will want to give a name or description and it is important that this is accurate and correct in order not to be misleading. Areas that can cause problems are ham/shoulder, reformed or chopped and shaped meats and cheese substitutes.

If packed sandwiches are brought in from another supplier, full labelling, as described below, must be given.

Retail outlets

i.e. retail outlets which are not principally caterers, such as grocers, corner shops and garages.

Sandwiches sold loose or prepacked by a retailer for sale by him on the premises where the food is packed or from a vehicle or stall used by him are required to have limited labelling as follows: -

- A name or description.
- A declaration of the category name of any of the following additives if present; preservative, antioxidant, colour, flavouring, sweetener or flavour enhancer.
- A declaration if sandwich or ingredients has been irradiated and/or contains genetically modified material.

The information may be given on a label/notice adjacent to the food.

As in the previous paragraph, care must be taken with the description of the sandwich to ensure that it is accurate and not misleading. If prepacked sandwiches are brought in from another supplier, full labelling as described below, must be given.

Sandwich Manufacturers

(This includes manufacturers who prepare pre-packed sandwiches and supply a number of other retail and catering outlets and van sales to offices and similar).

Pre-packed sandwiches of these types will require full labelling as follows:

- A name or description.
(*Care must be taken with the description of the sandwich to ensure that it is accurate and not misleading*).
- A list of ingredients.
- A % declaration (QUID) for ingredients listed in the name of the sandwich.

(For named characterising ingredients which might affect consumer choice.)

- A date mark (durability indication).
- Storage conditions.
- Name and address.
- Origin (if by omitting it might be misleading).

Also, if applicable:

- An irradiation declaration.
- A genetically modified material declaration.
- A 'packaged in a protective atmosphere' declaration.
- Specific declarations if sweeteners, sugars and sweeteners, aspartame or polyols are present.

Also, if any nutritional claims are made:

- A prescribed nutritional statement.

There are additional labelling requirements if any other claims are made.

Conclusion

The labelling of sandwiches is too complicated to deal with completely in a short leaflet of this kind. If you would like further advice in order to help your business get it right first time, please contact us.