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FOREWORD

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INTRODUCTION

Prepackaged foods and beverages have been increasing in importance and now account for over 75 % of global agri-foods trade. By definition, a prepackaged product has the measurement of its contents predetermined prior to being placed on the market and accordingly the quantity declaration marked on a prepackage is an essential part of any trade transaction of the prepackaged product.

This document provides requirements to facilitate access to the quantity declaration and other relevant information declared on a prepackage, in order to minimise the information asymmetry between vendors and consumers.

The terms prepackage and prepackaged product are used in this document because the packaged article is pre-measured prior to being placed on the market. The presentation of the result of a measurement is an integral part of a measurement process. Accordingly, the labelling of a prepackage, including the declaration of quantity, is important for metrological control.

This publication – reference OIML R 79, edition XXXX (E) – was developed by the OIML technical committee TC 6 *Prepackaged products*. It was sanctioned by the International Conference of Legal Metrology in XXXX and supersedes the previous edition dated 1996.

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR PREPACKAGED PRODUCTS

1 Scope

1.1 This Recommendation covers requirements for the labelling of prepackaged products with respect to:

- (a) the identity of the product;
- (b) the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer or retailer; and
- (c) the quantity of product in the prepackage.

1.2 This recommendation applies to prepackaged products with constant nominal quantity as defined in OIML R87 and to products with random nominal quantities which are prepackaged and bear a statement of quantity.

Note 1: This Recommendation does not cover labeling requirements for reasons of health, safety or tax, or for other purposes such as date limit for sale or use, storage temperature, etc., Declarations of ingredients on labels or nutritional information on food products, whether compulsory or not, are also not covered by this Recommendation.

Note 2: The metrological requirements for quantity of products in prepackages are covered in OIML R 87 *Quantity of product in prepackages*.

2 Terminology

The definitions in OIML R 87 apply in addition to the following:

(See also temporary schedule at back of document containing relevant OIML R 87 definitions for reference during drafting)

2.1 Label

Any written, printed, or graphic matter affixed to, applied to, attached to, blown into, formed or molded into, embossed on, or appearing upon a package containing any product for purposes of branding, identifying, or giving any information with respect to the product or to the contents of the package; however, an inspector's tag or other non-promotional text affixed to or appearing on a product shall not be deemed to be a label that requires the label information prescribed by this Recommendation.

2.2 Principal display panel

The part of a package that is designed to be visible under normal conditions of display.

Note: This is normally the main or front panel of the prepackage and there could be more than one.

3 Identity of the product

3.1 The prepackage shall bear the identity of the product on the principal display panel.

3.2 The identity of the product shall be in such type size and so positioned as to make it conspicuous, easy to read and understand.

3.3 The identity of the product shall be in terms of at least one of the following designations in the order of the priority listed:

- (a) the name specified in or required by any applicable national law or regulation, or
- (b) if there are no legal requirements for the name, the common or usual name by which the product is known, or
- (c) if the name is not commonly known, the generic name or any other appropriately descriptive term such as a statement of function.

4 Name and address

The name and physical address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor responsible for the prepackaged product shall be declared on any surface in such type size and so positioned as to make it conspicuous, easy to read and understand.

5 Quantity of the prepackaged product

5.1 A prepackaged product shall bear a declaration of the quantity of the product on the principal display panel.

Note: In some national legislation the quantity of the product is referred to as “net quantity”, “net content(s)” or “net mass”.

5.1.1 Where a prepackaged item consists of two or more prepackages with full quantity declarations for individual sale and each package is separately packed in its own package and all of the packages are packed together in an outer package that is not intended to be removed before the goods are offered for sale, then the statement of quantity marked on the outer package shall state:

- (a) the total quantity of all the packages in the outer package; or
- (b) the number of the packages contained in the outer package and the quantity of each of those packages;

provided that the indications required in (a) or (b) shall not be compulsory where the total number of individual packages can be clearly seen and easily counted from the outside and where at least one indication of the quantity contained in each individual package can be clearly seen from the outside.

5.1.2 Where a prepackaged product consists of two or more individual packages on which the quantity is not marked for individual sale, the quantity shall be given by indicating the total quantity.

Note: Where the number of pieces can be adequately controlled then the number of pieces may be indicated as a supplementary statement of quantity. Any supplementary statement of quantity should comply with all applicable requirements of OIML R 87.

5.1.3 When a product is packed in a medium which is not intended to be used, for the purposes of indicating the quantity of the product, the term “product” applies to the solid contents intended to be used, excluding the medium. In the case of foodstuffs packed in a liquid medium not intended to be consumed, it will be acceptable for a packer to mark the total quantity of the solid contents and liquid medium in addition to the required quantity of the solid contents, especially in cases where the liquid medium has a nutritional value and could wholly or partially be consumed with the product. This additional supplementary indication shall be clearly indicated as including the liquid medium.

Note 1: This is sometimes referred to as “drained mass” or “drained weight”.

Note 2: OIML R 87 contains a list of liquid mediums, used to protect foodstuffs, which are considered as packing material. OIML R 87 also prescribes that if the total quantity, including the liquid medium, is marked

then this marking must comply with the relevant metrological requirements.

Note 3: Savoury sauces such as tomato sauce or gravy are intended to be consumed and are therefore regarded as part of the product and included in the quantity declaration.

Note 4: The terms “drained mass” and “drained weight” should not be confused with the CODEX requirement for marking the “net content” which means the sum of the mass of the product and the medium (See CODEX STAN 1, Clause 4.3.3).

5.2 Prepackages not intended for sale, for example free samples or sachets of condiments provided with food or drink or free toiletries provided in accommodation, need not bear a quantity indication.

5.3 The nominal quantity shall:

- (a) be expressed in terms of the largest whole unit of mass, volume, length, area, or a combination of these units in accordance with Annex A;
- (b) where a nominal quantity statement contains decimal fractions, have no more than three places behind the decimal indicator, provided that the declaration complies with Table A.2.;
- (c) where indicated by means of a label printed by a measuring instrument, the nominal quantity may be less than a whole number, for example 0,988 kg; or
- (d) not be expressed in wording such as “half kilogram”.

5.4 The quantity statement shall generally be expressed as follows:

Note: Prepackers are advised to consult national legislation for specific requirements when exporting to other countries.

- (a) volume, if the product is liquid;
- (b) mass if the product is a solid, a gas or a liquefied gas;
- (c) quantities based firmly on established general consumer usage and trade custom, if such quantities provide accurate and adequate information to the purchaser. For example, the declaration of contents of a liquid by mass, or of a solid, semi-solid, or viscous product by volume, or numerical count, may be used;
- (d) statements of a quantity in terms of count shall be expressed in whole numbers and shall be clearly identifiable as the quantity statement;

Note: To clearly identify the quantity statement the following could be used: “50 matches”; “20 cigarettes”; “3 pieces”.

- (e) for all measurement units excluding mass the quantity of the product shall be expressed at the standard temperature of 20 °C. However, the quantity of frozen products such as ice cream shall be the quantity at the temperature required or specified by the manufacturer to maintain their composition or consistency in which they are normally used. Normally, the reference temperature would not appear on the label; or
- (f) if expelled with the product, the propellant in aerosol containers is included as part of the product.

5.5 Presentation of information

5.5.1 The minimum height of all characters in a quantity indication shall be at least 50 % of the height of the largest character (number or letter) used for the brand or descriptive name, whichever is the larger, on the principal display panel provided that no quantity indication shall be less than 1,5 mm or need exceed 20 mm.

5.5.2 When the quantity indication is blown, embossed or molded on the surface of the package, then all other required label information shall be provided conspicuously elsewhere on the surface or on a label in the position required in clauses 3 and 4 respectively.

6 Misleading practices

6.1 Fill level

Packages shall be filled in such a manner that a purchaser may not reasonably be misled with respect to the quantity or identity of the product it contains, taking into consideration any recognized and accepted production practices that may be necessary for the manufacturer or packer.

Note: See OIML R 87 for cases where slack fill is acceptable.

6.2 Package design and display

Packages shall be manufactured, constructed or displayed in such a manner that a purchaser may not reasonably be misled with respect to the quantity or identity of product contained therein. A prepackage shall not have a false bottom, sidewalls, lid or covering, or be otherwise so constructed or filled, wholly or partially that may deceive the consumer. Concave bottoms may be justified for safety reasons.

6.3 Duplication of information

If the prepackaged product is labelled on more than one location on the package, the information on all labels shall be equivalent and in accordance with the requirements of this Recommendation.

6.4 Additional or free quantities

Prepackages that contain advertorial text to the effect that an additional or free quantity is included must be marked with the nominal quantity inclusive of the additional quantity.

ANNEX A
UNITS OF MEASUREMENT AND SYMBOLS
(Mandatory)

A.1 Units of measurement shall be expressed in either words or symbols. Table A.1 provides the unit and the appropriate symbol for measurements.

Table A.1 - Units of measurement

Unit	Symbol ^(a)
milligram	mg
gram	g
kilogram	kg
tonne	t
litre ^(b)	L or l
centilitre	cl
millilitre	mL or ml
micrometre	µm
millimetre	mm
centimetre	cm
decimetre	dm
metre	m
square millimetre	mm ²
square centimetre	cm ²
square metre	m ²
cubic centimetre	cm ³
cubic decimetre	dm ³
cubic metre	m ³

^(a) Neither a period nor the letter “s” should be used after any of the symbols.

^(b) The alternative symbol for the litre, L, was adopted by the General Conference of Weights and Measures (CGPM) in order to avoid the risk of confusion of the letter l and the number 1.

A.1.1 A single space shall be used to separate the number from the unit of measurement.

A.1.2 Appropriate phrases such as “net”, “net mass”, “net contents” or “net quantity” may be used in connection with the net quantity declaration. Such phrases may appear either before or after the net quantity declaration. In the case of products packed in a liquid medium not intended to be used (see clause 5.1.3) the words “net”, “net mass”, “net contents” or “net quantity” shall be used only in relation to the mass without the liquid medium (see note under clause 5.1).

A.1.3 The unit used depends on the type of measure and net quantity of product. Table A.2 indicates the correct unit to use for a variety of measures and quantities.

Table A.2 Choice of units

Type of measure	Quantity of product (q)	Units
volume ^(a) (liquids)	$q < 1000 \text{ mL}$	mL (ml) or cL (cl)
	$1000 \text{ mL} \leq q$	L (l)
volume - cubic (solids)	$q \leq 1000 \text{ cm}^3$ (1 dm^3)	cm^3 , mL (ml)
	$1 \text{ dm}^3 < q < 1000 \text{ dm}^3$	dm^3 , L (l)
	$1000 \text{ dm}^3 \leq q$	m^3
mass ^(b)	$q < 1 \text{ g}$	mg
	$1 \text{ g} \leq q < 1000 \text{ g}$	g
	$1000 \text{ g} \leq q$	kg
length ^(a)	$q < 1 \text{ mm}$	mm
	$1 \text{ mm} \leq q < 100 \text{ cm}$	mm or cm
	$100 \text{ cm} \leq q$	m
area	$q < 100 \text{ cm}^2$ (1 dm^2)	mm^2 or cm^2
	$1 \text{ dm}^2 \leq q < 100 \text{ dm}^2$ (1 m^2)	dm^2
	$1 \text{ m}^2 \leq q$	m^2

^(a) See 5.4 (e)

^(b) See 5.4 (b)

SCHEDULE TO BE DELETED FROM THE FINAL DOCUMENT

APPLICABLE DEFINITIONS THAT APPEAR IN OIML R 87

Actual quantity

Actual quantity of product that a prepackage in fact contains as determined by measurements made by legal metrology officials.

Content of a prepackage

Actual quantity of product in a prepackage.

Misleading prepackage

Prepackage that is made, formed, presented, marked or filled in any way that may mislead a consumer about the quantity of contents that it contains.

Nominal quantity

Quantity of product in a prepackage declared on the label by the packager.

Note 1: The symbol 'Qn' is used to designate the nominal quantity.

Note 2: The nominal quantity must be declared in accordance with OIML R 79.

Packing material

(also called **individual package, tare, packaging** or **packaging material**)

Everything of the prepackage that is intended to be left over after use of the product, except for items naturally in the product. Use includes consumption or subjecting to a treatment.

Note: Packing material is generally used to contain, protect, handle, deliver, preserve, transport, inform about and serve as an aid (e.g. food serving tray) while using the product it contains.

Prepackage

Combination of a product and the packing material in which it is prepacked.

Prepackaged product

Single item for presentation as such to a consumer, consisting of a product and the packing material into which it was put before being offered for sale and in which the quantity of product has a predetermined value, whether the packing material encloses the product completely or only partially, but in any case in such a way that the actual quantity of product cannot be altered without the packing material either being opened or undergoing a perceptible modification.