

**Environmental Information
on Products:**
making public access work

Task Force on Access to Information
First Meeting

February 7, 2013

Content

- National Regulations
- Benefits
- Challenges
- Needs

**Product Safety and Free Movement Code
of Georgia, *and***

**Food/Animal Feed Safety, Veterinary and
Plant Protection Code of Georgia**

(08.05.2012)

Aim of the Product Safety and Free Movement Code

- Protect human life, health, property and the environment
- Place safe product on the market and free circulation

Manufacturer/distributor is required to provide the customer with necessary, reliable and complete information about product to enable to make the right decision

Information on Product

- Product name and type
- Trade name and address of the product manufacturer, name of the producer country
- Product expiration date or the manufacturing date and storage period, weight and/or volume
- Terms and conditions of safe use and storage
- Actions which consumer must carry out after the product expiration date and the expected consequences in the case of failure to do so

Standards and Technical Reglaments (1)

- Product standards are determined by the National Agency for Standards, Technical Regulations and Metrology (NASTRM) of the MESD of Georgia
- TR establishes the basic principles which protect human life, health, property and the environment
- TR which should be in accordance with determined standards is necessary for certain products
- The manufacturer is obliged to follow the requirements of TR

Standards and Technical Regulations (2)

- Adopted TR should be registered in the registry maintained by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and is available for everyone on request
- Standards register is maintained by and placed on the web page of the National Agency for Standards, Technical Regulations and Metrology and is available for everyone

Aim of the Code of Food/Animal Feed Safety, Veterinary and Plant Protection

- Development of an effective control system
- Determine the common principles of the State regulation

for

Protection of human life and health, consumer interests and product safety

Code Regulates and Determines

- General State principles and requirements of food/animal feed, veterinary and plant protection safety
- Types of the State control in this field
- Competencies of the responsible bodies
- Responsibilities of the business operators
- Requirements for import-export
- Corresponding responsibilities for the violation of this Code

Responsible Bodies

➤ Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia (*National Food Agency - NFA*)

and

➤ Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

Principle of Transparency

- Development, analysis and evaluation of risk management measures are public (*exceptional cases defined by the national legislation*)
- If reasonable doubt on risk, NFA has to provide the public with the information on the possible impact on human health and the product posing a threat, measures to reduce/eliminate the risk

Protection of consumers' interests

All actions which may mislead the consumers must be prevented/avoided

Registration of business operators

- Business operator is obligated to register according to the national legislation
- Recognition of a business operator is possible if his/her work is in full compliance with the national legislation

*Fines for violations of requirements varies 200-1200 GEL
(120-730 \$)*

State Control Mechanisms

- Inspection
- Monitoring
- Supervision

NFA's annual reports on

- Types of control, mechanisms and the number of its implementation
- Number of revealed inconsistencies, with indication to the type of violation
- Measures taken in response to the inconsistencies

Labeling

- Labels on each packaged food should be firmly placed on, so that it can't be easily removed
- All information required to appear on the label should be complete, clear, visible, and legible

Information on the Label (1)

Mandatory

- Name of Product
- List of ingredients
- Food additives (*if any*)
- Country of origin, manufacturer, packager, distributor, name, address and party of the importer or exporter
- Date of issue and expire date
- Instructions

Information on the Label (2)

It is permitted

- Place international irradiation symbol
- Note physiological functions of the food substances
- As a consequence of religious tradition to put relevant information – “fasting”, “halal”, “kasheri”, etc.

Information on the Label (3)

Prohibitions

- Information which could give rise to doubt about the safety of similar foods
- Information using comparative and superlative words and phrases such as “beneficial”, “for better health”, “of high quality”, etc.

➤

Labeling of GM Food products

- Indicate if GM components of food produced by modern biotechnology, make up more 0.9% of the total product mass
- Label “GMO” must be placed near the product name if the product contains only one GM ingredient
- Label “GMO” should be included in the “composed of” section, if food composes of two or more ingredients out which only one is GM
- If food doesn't contain DNA and is made from GMO, it should be marked on label according to the declaration of the Country of origin of the raw product

Benefits (1)

- Informed consumers
- Consumers have a choice
- Business operators know the principles how to operate
- Raised responsibility of business operators to obey existing rules and procedures

Benefits (2)

- Responsible State agencies have a right of monitoring
- Commercial centers are more actively checking suitability of products
- Avoids acceptance of not appropriate products in stock

Challenges

In general, most of citizens

- Don't read the information on the products
- They prefer cheaper products

In some cases

- Occurs outdated products
- Not all required information is noted
- Type is too small

Needs

- Proper monitoring and enforcement
- Enhance civil liability
- Enhance business operators' responsibility
- Awareness raising on harms caused by low quality products and harmful food additives
- Cooperation at the regional and international level for information sharing, development of best practices

Thank you!

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