

Date: 29/10/2011

Announcement Regarding Food Allergens Control*

Within the framework of controlling imports of food which fail to meet Saudi Standard 2007/1 "Labeling of Prepackaged Foodstuff", we would like you to take cautions to the allergenic ingredients and their derived contents or extracts.

In order to serve the public interest and to ensure that the consumers, in particularly those who are allergic to some food, are provided with correct non-misleading information which help them select their diets without jeopardizing their health or affecting their dietary patterns, the SFDA would like to advise all the concerned food importers and business operators on the following:

Without prejudice to any of the provisions stated in Saudi Standard 2007/1 "Labeling of Prepackaged Foodstuff, the following shall apply:

1. As per article 5/2/4, and 5/2/7, you shall ensure that the label indicates the raw materials used in the processing of food products and their allergenic ingredients such as cereals (wheat, barley, oat, and rye) containing gelatin _ whether natural or halogenated _ and its products (such as bread, rusk, and cake), crustaceous and their products (such shrimps, crabs, lobsters, and oysters), eggs and their products (such as pies, cakes, biscuits, custards, and noodles), fish and their products, nuts, peanuts, soybeans, walnuts and their products (such as peanut butter, sauce, and creams), milk and their products _ because of its protein content _ (such as yogurt, cheese, chocolate, creams, pudding, milk sauce, and custard), sulphites when added at a concentration of <10 ppm, (e.g. raisin, dried fruit, and beverages).

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2. If a product is obtained by means of biotechnology, it must be clearly stated on the label. This technology causes allergens to be carried over to the products mentioned above in article 1.
3. As of the date of this directive, importers and business operators are given a six-month notice to comply. In addition, SFDA shall also examine food products to verify the information on the label. As of the deadline, any product proven to be incompliant with the above approved standards and regulations shall not be cleared, or allowed to be put in the market.
4. The necessary arrangements for publishing these new procedures shall be taken as soon as possible.

Your cooperation for the sake of public interest is highly appreciated.

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