

OFFICIAL MEXICAN STANDARD NOM-051-SCFI-1994, GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR LABELING PREPACKAGED FOODS AND NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

In the margin a stamp with the national seal, which says: United Mexican States.- Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Promotion.- General Directorate of Standards.

OFFICIAL MEXICAN STANDARD NOM-051-SCFI-1994, GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR LABELING PREPACKAGED FOODS AND NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

The Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Promotion, through the General Directorate of Standards, based on Articles 34 of the Federal Public Administration Organic Law; 1; 39, Section V; 40, Section XII; and 47, Section 14, of the Federal Law on Metrology and Standardization; 9 and 24, Sections I and XV, of the International Regulations of the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Promotion; 5, Section XIII, paragraph a) of the Agreement Organically Assigning Administrative Units and Delegating Powers to the Assistant Secretaries, Executive Officer, Unit Heads, General Directors, General Coordinator and Other Officials of the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Promotion, published in the Federal Official Gazette on March 29, 1994 and amended by a decree published in that same information medium on September 14 of that same year, and

CONSIDERING

That it is necessary to readjust the regulatory framework for the nation's economic activities;

That it is the Federal Government's responsibility to adopt the necessary measures to ensure that products and services marketed within the nation's territory bear the necessary commercial information so that consumers and users can properly make their decisions about buying, using, and fully benefiting from the products and services they acquire;

That the Federal Law on Metrology and Standardization establishes that the Mexican official standards constitute the appropriate instrument for achieving these objectives, issuance is made of the following

OFFICIAL MEXICAN STANDARD NOM-051-SCFI-1994, GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR LABELING PREPACKAGED FOODS AND NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

For these purposes, this Official Mexican Standard shall take effect as of November 1, 1996, with the exception of the aspects related to nutritional information, which shall take effect as of January 1, 1998.

Effective suffrage. No reelection.

Mexico City, January 3, 1996, General Director of Standards, Ma. Eugenia Bracho González. Signature.

OFFICIAL MEXICAN STANDARD NOM-51-SCFI-1994, GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR LABELING PREPACKAGED FOODS AND NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

PREFACE

In the preparation of this Mexican Official Standard, the following participated from the public sector:

SECRETARIAT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION

General Directorate of Trade Policies
General Directorate of Domestic Trade Promotion
General Directorate of Basic Commodities and Sectorial Liaison
General Directorate of Standards

SECRETARIAT OF FISHERIES

General Directorate of Fishing Promotion

SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH

General Directorate of Sanitary Control of Goods and Services

SECRETARIAT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES

General Directorate of Fishing Development

NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCY

Inspection and Enforcement Division
Legal Division
Consumer Services Division

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY

The following participated from the private sector:

ANDERSON CLAYTON

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS OF COOKIES, CRACKERS AND EDIBLE PASTAS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS OF CHOCOLATES, CANDIES AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SELF-SERVICE AND DEPARTMENT STORES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRODUCERS OF SOFT DRINKS AND SODAS

NATIONAL DAIRY INDUSTRY CHAMBER

NATIONAL PROCESSING INDUSTRY CHAMBER

CANACINTRA, SECTIONS 18, 22, 75, AND 91

CANAIPES

NATIONAL CHAMBER OF THE PRESERVED FOODS INDUSTRY

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF COLD MEAT AND SAUSAGE PACKERS

NESTLE CO.

NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRIAL CHAMBERS

CONFEDERATION OF NATIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, SERVICE, AND TOURISM

PASTEURIZING COUNCIL
MEXICAN COUNCIL OF SWINE PRODUCERS
DETREVI, S. A.
LA AZTECA CHOCOLATE FACTORY
GAMESA GROUP
DOMECQ WINE INDUSTRIES
LA MADRILEÑA
LYAUSA
KELLOGG'S DE MEXICO
PROCTER AND GAMBLE
SIGMA FOODS
SUCARNE INDUSTRIES
CONSULTORIA ECONOMICA Y FIANCIERA
ROCHE PRODUCTS
KRAFT GENERAL FOODS OF MEXICO
BIMBO INDUSTRIAL GROUP- -

OFFICIAL MEXICAN STANDARD NOM-051-SCFI-1994, GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR LABELING PREPACKAGES FOODS AND NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1. Objective

The purpose of this Official Mexican Standard is to establish the commercial information that must be contained on the label of prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages of domestic and foreign manufacture, as well as to determine the characteristics of this information.

1.1 Field of application

This standard is applicable to all prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages of domestic and foreign manufacture intended for consumers within the nation's territory.

This standard shall not be applied to:

- a) Prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages that are subject to provisions regarding commercial information contained in specific official Mexican standards or any other regulations in effect;
- b) Bulk commodities;
- c) Other products determined by the competent authorities in accordance with their attributions.

2. References

This Official Mexican Standard is complemented by the following standards now in force:

NOM 002-SCFI Prepackaged products-Net content-Tolerances and verification methods.

NOM 008-SCFI General System of Measuring Units.

NOM-030-SCFI Commercial information-Declaration of quantity on the label specifications.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions are established:

3.1 Additive

Substances that are allowed to be added directly to foods and nonalcoholic beverages during their preparation, whose use permits the performance of some technological function.

3.2 Food

Any substance or product, either solid, semi-solid or liquid, natural or processed, that is intended for human consumption and that provides the organism with nutritional elements by oral ingestion.

3.3 Sugars

All the monosaccharides and disaccharides present in a food or nonalcoholic beverage.

3.4 Nonalcoholic beverage

Any natural or processed liquid intended for human consumption that provides the organism with nutritional elements by oral ingestion, and does not contain more than 0.5 per cent in volume of ethyl alcohol.

3.5 Processing adjuvant

A substance or material, excluding equipment, utensils and additives, that is not itself consumed as a food ingredient and is used intentionally in the preparation of raw materials, foods or their ingredients in order to achieve some technological purpose during treatment or preparation, that could lead to the unintentional but inevitable presence of residues or by-products in the final product.

3.6 Consumer

A natural or artificial person that acquires or utilizes as the end user prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages. Consumers are not those who acquire, store or use prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages for the purpose of incorporating them into production, processing, or marketing processes or in providing services to third parties.

3.7 Content

The amount of prepackaged product that by its nature can be quantified for marketing by a numerical count in product units.

3.8 Net content

The amount of prepackaged product that remains after all tare deductions have been made, if any.

3.9 Declaration of properties

Any text or statement that affirms, suggests or implies that a prepackaged food or nonalcoholic beverage has special qualities because of its origin, nutritional properties, nature, preparation, composition or any other quality, except the product's brand name and the names of the ingredients.

3.10 Declaration of nutritional properties

Any text or statement that affirms, suggests or implies that the prepackaged product has particular nutritional properties, both in relation to its content of energy and proteins, fats (lipids) and carbohydrates, and to its vitamin and mineral content.

The declaration of nutritional properties is not:

- a) The mention of substances in the list of ingredients nor the prepackaged product's commercial or brand name;
- b) The mention of some nutrient or component when its addition is mandatory.
- c) The quantitative or qualitative declaration on the label of nutritional properties of some nutrients or ingredients when this is mandatory under the applicable legal codes.

3.11 Nutritional declaration

A list or enumeration of the nutrient content of a prepackaged food or nonalcoholic beverage.

3.12 Packaging

Material used as a wrapper, container, and protection for the prepackaged products for the purpose of storing and transporting them.

3.13 Container

Any recipient or wrapping in which the prepackaged product is contained for its sale to the consumer.

3.14 Multiple container

Any recipient or wrapping in which two or more equal varieties of prepackaged products are contained, intended for sale to the consumer in said packaging.

3.15 Collective container

Any recipient or wrapping in which two or more different varieties of prepackaged products are contained, intended for sale to the consumer in said packaging.

3.16 Label

Any marking, tag, inscription, image or other descriptive or graphic material, that is written, printed, stenciled, marked, engraved in high or low relief, stuck to or overlaid on the prepackaged product, or when this is not possible because of the product's characteristics, on the packaging.

3.17 Expiration date

Final date on which it is considered that the health and quality characteristics that the prepackaged product should have, when stored under the conditions suggested by the manufacturer, will be reduced or eliminated in such a way that after that date it should not be marketed or consumed.

3.18 Preferred date of use

The date on which, under certain storage conditions, the period expires during which the prepackaged product is marketable and retains all the specific qualities that are attributed to it tacitly or explicitly, but after which the prepackaged product can be consumed, always provided that the expiration date is not exceeded.

3.19 Dietary fiber.

Component of plant material that is not digested by the enzymes of the digestive tract. Fundamentally, this includes structural and nonstructural polysaccharides other than starch and lignin.

3.20 Technological function

The effect produced by the use of additives in prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages that provides or intensifies their aroma, color or taste and improves their stability and preservation, amongst others. See additive.

3.21 Nutritional information

Any description intended to inform the consumer about the nutritional properties of a prepackaged food or nonalcoholic beverage. It includes two aspects:

- a) Mandatory nutritional statement.
- b) Complementary nutritional statement.

3.22 Ingredient

Any substance or product, including additives, that is used in the manufacture or preparation of a food or nonalcoholic beverage and that is present in the end product, whether transformed or not.

3.23 Compound ingredient

A previously prepared mixture of substances and products that forms a finished product and is used for the manufacture of another product.

3.24 Warning texts

Any text or statement that warns the consumer of the presence of a specific ingredient or about harmful effects to health that can be caused by abuse in its consumption.

3.25 Batch

A food produced by a manufacturer during a period which is identified with a specific code.

3.26 Size

The quality of a property or physical attribute of a product when it can be quantified and expressed in accordance with the General System of Measuring Units (see References).

3.27 Drained mass

Amount of a solid or semisolid product that represents the content of a container after the liquid has been removed by a previously established method.

3.28 Nutrient

Any substance, including proteins (amino acids), fats (lipids), carbohydrates, water, vitamins and minerals, that is normally consumed as a component of a food or nonalcoholic beverage and that:

- a) Provides energy;
- b) Is necessary for growth, development and maintaining life; or
- c) The lack of which produces characteristic chemical or physiological changes.

3.29 Serving

The amount of a product that is consumed by ingestion, expressed in units of the General System of Measuring Units.

3.30 Bulk product

A product that should be weighed, measured or counted in the presence of the consumer because **it is not** prepackaged at the time it is sold.

3.31 Prepackaged product

Foods and nonalcoholic beverages that when they are placed in a container of any type the consumer is not present and the amount of the product that it contains cannot be altered unless **the** container is opened or perceptibly changed.

3.32 Measuring unit symbol

A conventional sign with which the measuring unit is designated in accordance with the General System of Measuring Units (see References).

3.33 Measuring unit submultiple

A fraction of a measuring unit that is formed in accordance with the principle of scales admitted by the General System of Measuring Units (see References).

3.34 Information surface

Any surface on the container or packaging other than the principal exhibition surface.

3.35 Principal exhibition surface

That part of the container or packaging to which greatest importance is given because it bears the product's name and brand. The bottoms of containers may be used as a principal exhibition surface only when commercial information is not placed anywhere else on the container.

3.36 Measuring unit

A value of magnitude which is accepted by convention to have a numeric value equal to I (See References).

4. Specifications

4.1 General labeling requirements

4.1.1 The information contained on the labels of prepackaged foods and non-alcoholic beverages must be truthful and be described and presented in such a way as not to lead to error on the part of the consumer regarding the nature and characteristics of the product.

4.1.2 Prepackaged products subject to the application of this standard must bear a label which describes or uses words, illustrations or other graphic representations that refer to the product. Labels on prepackaged products may include the graphic or textual description of the suggested use, utilization or preparation, on condition that a text appears alluding to this.

4.2 Mandatory information requirements

4.2.1 Name or denomination of the prepackaged food or nonalcoholic beverage.

4.2.1.1 The name or denomination of the prepackaged product must correspond to that established in the specific legal codes; lacking this, the commonly-used name may be shown or a description may be used in accordance with the basic characteristics of the composition and nature of the prepackaged food or nonalcoholic beverage that will not lead to error or deception on the part of the consumer. If it has received some type of treatment, the latter's name may be shown, except for those which are of a mandatory nature in accordance with the corresponding legal codes.

4.2.2 List of ingredients

4.2.2.1 Labels of prepackaged products that are marketed individually must bear a list of ingredients, which may be waived in the case of products with a single ingredient.

4.2.2.1.1 The list of ingredients must be headed or preceded by the term "ingredients".

4.2.2.1.2 The ingredients of a prepackaged food or nonalcoholic beverage must be listed in decreasing quantitative order (m/m).

4.2.2.1.3 A compound ingredient must be declared if it constitutes more than 25 per cent of the food or nonalcoholic beverage and must be accompanied by a list in parentheses of its constituent ingredients in decreasing quantitative order (m/m). When it constitutes less than that percentage, the additives that perform a technological function in the product's preparation and any ingredients or additives associated with allergic reactions must be declared, in accordance with the corresponding legal codes.

4.2.2.1.4 The list of ingredients must show water added in order of predominance, except when it forms part of a compound ingredient and is declared as such in the list and is used in cooking and reconstituting processes. It is not necessary to declare water or other volatile ingredients that evaporate during manufacture.

4.2.2.1.5 In the case of dried or condensed foods intended to be reconstituted, their ingredients may be listed in decreasing quantitative order (m/m) in the reconstituted product, provided that an indication is included such as the one given below: "Ingredients of the product when prepared in accordance with the instructions on the label".

4.2.2.1.6 In the list of ingredients, a specific denomination must be used in accordance with the provisions of point 4.2.1, except for the classes of ingredients given in Table 1, for which a generic denomination may be used (see Table 1).

4.2.2.1.7 Notwithstanding what is stipulated in the previous point, pork lard and tallow must always be declared by their specific denominations.:

4.2.2.1.8 When there is a declaration of the use of additives allowed in the preparation of foods and nonalcoholic beverages, the generic denominations or specific name of the additive may be used.

4.2.2.2 Adjuvants in the preparation and transfer of additives.

4.2.2.2.1 The list of ingredients must include any additive that has been used in the ingredients of a prepackaged food or nonalcoholic beverage that is transferred to another prepackaged product in a substantial amount or sufficient to perform a technological function in it.

4.2.2.2.2 Additives transferred to prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages that no longer fulfill a technological function in the finished product, as well as processing adjuvants, are exempt from being declared in the list of ingredients, except any that might cause allergic reactions or intolerance;

4.2.3 Net content and drained mass

4.2.3.1 The net content and drained mass must be declared in units of the General System of Measuring Units, as established in NOM-30-SCFI, and may also be expressed in other units (see References).

4.2.4 Name and fiscal domicile

4.2.4.1 For domestically-produced prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages, the label must show the name or corporate identification and fiscal domicile of the manufacturer or company responsible for its manufacture. In the case of imported prepackaged products, this information must be provided to the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Promotion by the importer, at its request. The Secretariat shall provide this information at the request of consumers in the event of a complaint on their part.

4.2.4.2 For imported prepackaged products, the label must show the importer's name, corporate denomination or identification and fiscal domicile. This information may be placed on the prepackaged product within national territory, after customs clearance and prior to marketing the product.

4.2.5 Country of origin

4.2.5.1 Prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages produced domestically or abroad must bear a legend identifying the products' country of origin; for example: "Made in..." "Product of..." "Manufactured in...", or other similar texts, followed by the product's country of origin, subject to the provisions in international treaties to which Mexico is a party.

TABLE 1.- Generic name of ingredients.

Classes of ingredients	Generic name
Refined oils other than olive oil	"Oil", together with the term "vegetable" or "animal", qualified with the term hydrogenated, as the case may be.

Refined fats	“Fats”, together with the term “vegetable” or “animal”, as the case may be.
Starches, other than starches that are chemically altered	“Starch”
All types of fish meat, when the fish is an ingredient of another food and provided that on the label and packaging of the food no reference is made to a given species of fish.	“Fish”
All types of poultry meat, when the meat constitutes an ingredient of another food and provided that on the label and packaging of the food no reference is made to a specific species of poultry.	“Poultry meat”
All types of cheese, when the cheese or a mixture of cheeses constitutes an ingredient of another food and provided that on the label and packaging of the food no reference is made to a specific type of cheese.	“Cheese”
All spices and spice extracts in an amount not greater than 2% in weight, alone or mixed in the food.	“Spice”, “spices” or “mixtures of spices”, as the case may be.
All aromatic herbs or parts of aromatic herbs in an amount no greater than 2% in weight, alone or mixed in the food.	“Aromatic herbs” or “mixtures of aromatic herbs”, as the case may be.
All types of gum preparations used in the manufacture of gum base for chewing gum.	“Gum base”.
All mono and disaccharides	“Sugars”.
Anhydrous dextrose and monohydrate dextrose	“Dextrose” or “glucose”
All types of caseinates	“Caseinates”.
Cocoa butter obtained by pressure, extraction or refining.	“Cocoa butter”.
All candied fruits, not exceeding 10% of the weight of the food.	“Candied fruits”.
All seasonings in an amount no greater than 2% in weight, alone or mixed with the food.	“Seasonings”.

4.2.6 Batch identification

4.2.6.1 Every container must have etched or marked on it in some way the identification of the batch it belongs to, with an indication in code in accordance with the applicable legal codes.

4.2.6.2 The batch identification placed by the manufacturer on prepackaged products shall not be altered or hidden in any way.

4.2.7 Expiration date

4.2.7.1 Foods and nonalcoholic beverages that must show their expiration date are subject to what is established by the corresponding legal provisions.

4.2.7.2 When the expiration date is stated, the label must indicate any special conditions required for preservation of the prepackaged food or nonalcoholic beverage if the validity of the date depends on these

conditions. For example, legends may be included such as: “Keep refrigerated”, “Keep frozen”, “AFTER thawing, do not refreeze,” “After opening, keep refrigerated., or other similar texts.

4.2.7.3 The expiration date placed on the prepackaged product by the manufacturer may not be altered in any case or under any circumstances.

4.2.8 Nutritional information

4.2.8.1 A nutritional declaration on the label of prepackaged products is voluntary. It is only mandatory when a quantitative or qualitative statement is made regarding a nutritional property. Prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages regulated by specific provisions are subject to what is established in said provisions.

4.2.8.2 Nutrients that must be declared

4.2.8.2.1 When a nutritional declaration is included on prepackaged products, it is mandatory to declare the following, with the exception of prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages regulated by the applicable legal codes:

- a) Energy content;
- b) The amounts of proteins, available carbohydrates and fats (lipids);
- c) The amount of sodium;
- d) The amount of any other nutrient about which a declaration of properties is made; and
- e) The quantitative or qualitative nutritional declaration of any nutrients or ingredients on the label regulated by the applicable legal codes;

4.2.8.3 Presentation of the nutritional information

4.2.8.3.1 The nutritional declaration must be made in the corresponding numerical units. In addition, other forms of presentation may be used for them.

4.2.8.3.2 The declaration of the energy content must be expressed in kJ (kcal) per 100 g or per serving or per container, if it contains only one serving.

4.2.8.3.3 The declaration of the quantity of proteins, carbohydrates and fats (lipids) contained in the foods must be expressed in 100 g or per serving or per container, if it contains only one serving.

4.2.8.3.4 The numerical declaration of vitamins and minerals must be expressed in metric units or as a percentage of the daily recommended allowance (RDA) by 100 g or per serving or per container if it contains only one serving.

4.2.8.3.5 In such cases, the following table of weighted recommendations for the Mexican population shall be used.

RECOMMENDED DAILY ALLOWANCE

Nutrients	Values
Protein g	75
Vitamin A µg (equivalents of retinol)	1,000
Vitamin E mg (tocopherols)	10

Vitamin B1 mg (Thiamin)	1.5
Vitamin B2 mg (Riboflavin)	1.7
Vitamin B6 mg (Pyridoxin)	2
Niacin mg (eq Nicotinic acid)	20
Folic acid µg (Folacin)	200
Vitamin B12 Mg (Cobalamin)	2
Vitamin C mg (Ascorbic acid)	60
Calcium mg	800
Phosphorus mg	800
Iron mg	15
Magnesium mg	350
Zinc mg	15
Iodine µg	150

4.2.8.3.6 The nutritional information may be presented in the following manner:

Name of the product	
Nutritional information	per 100 g, per serving, or per container
Energy content kJ (kcal)	_____ kJ (kcal)
Proteins	_____ g
Fats (lipids)	_____ g
Carbohydrates	_____ g
Sodium	_____ g
Additional information	_____ g

4.2.8.3.7 Tolerances and compliance

The competent authorities may establish tolerance limits related to public health needs regarding nutritional information. Stability during warehousing, accuracy of analyses, the diverse degree of preparation and the inherent instability and variability of the nutrient in the product, depending on whether the nutrient has been added to the product or is present in it naturally shall be regulated through Mexican official standards.

4.2.8.3.8 The dietary composition values that appear in the declaration of nutrients in the food or nonalcoholic beverage shall be weighted mean values derived from analyses, data bases or internationally recognized tables.

4.2.9 Declaration of nutritional properties

4.2.9.1 Notwithstanding what is established in this standard, any declaration regarding nutritional properties must be subject to the provisions of the applicable legal codes.

4.2.10 Presentation of mandatory requirements

4.2.10.1 General comments

4.2.10.1.1 Labels appearing on prepackaged products must be attached in such a way that they will remain available until the moment of use or consumption under normal conditions and must be applied to each unit, multiple or collective container.

4.2.10.1.2 When prepackaged foods or nonalcoholic beverages are in a multiple or collective container for sale to the consumer, the information referred to by this Official Mexican Standard must appear on the container. However, the indication of the batch and expiration date or date of preferred use must appear on the prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages and will not have to be shown on the multiple or collective container. In addition, prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages must bear the legend "Not labeled for individual sale".

4.2.10.1.3 The information that must appear on the label must be shown in clear, visible, indelible characters in contrasting color, and be easily read by the consumer under normal circumstances of purchase and use. The information regarding the batch can be placed anywhere on the container.

4.2.10.1.4 When the container is covered by a wrapping, all the necessary information must appear on it unless the label applied to the container can be read easily through the outer wrapping.

4.2.10.1.5 At least the brand and name of the prepackaged food or nonalcoholic beverage must appear on the main exhibition surface of the product. The rest of the information referred to in this Official Mexican Standard may be shown anywhere else on the container.

4.2.11 Language

4.2.11.1 Prepackaged foods and nonalcoholic beverages must bear a label in the Spanish language, without prejudice to its being stated in other languages. When the information is expressed in other languages, it must also appear in Spanish, at least of the same size and typographic proportions and in an equally obvious manner.

4.2.11.2 Any additional presentation of information or graphic representation on the label besides that indicated in this Official Mexican Standard that may be given in another language is optional and, if so, shall not substitute for, but be added to, the labeling requirements in this standard, always provided that said information is necessary in order to avoid error or deception on the part of the consumer.

4.3 Optional information requirements

4.3.1 Preferred date of use

4.3.1.1 The preferred date of use for preservation of the prepackaged product is optional. If included, the following must be observed:

i) The manufacturer must state on the container or label the date of preferred use, which must consist at least of:

- The day and month, for products having a maximum duration of three months;

-The month and year, for products having a duration of longer than three months.

- ii) The date must be preceded by a legend that specifies that said date refers to the preferred use.

4.3.1.2 When the date of preferred use is stated, any conditions required for the preservation of the prepackaged product must be shown on the container or label.

4.3.1.3 The preferred date of use may not be altered once it has been established at the time of the prepackaged product's manufacture.

4.3.2 Complementary nutritional information

The use of complementary nutritional information, either written or graphic, on the labels of foods and nonalcoholic beverages is optional and in no case may it substitute for the declaration of nutrients, except on foods and nonalcoholic beverages altered in their composition, which **must comply** with the applicable legal codes.

4.3.2.1 When the complementary nutritional declaration is given, the following criteria must be applied:

- a) The declaration of one of the following nutrients does not require a declaration of one of the others and will be made only if it has a RDA assigned to and the content of the serving is more than 5% of the RDA.

Protein (% RDA), Vitamin A (% RDA), Vitamin E (% RDA), Vitamin C (% RDA), Vitamin B1 (Thiamin) (% RDA), Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin) (% RDA), Vitamin B6 (Pyridoxin) (% RDA), Vitamin B12 (Cobalamin) (% RDA), Folic acid (Folacin) (%RDA), Niacin (Nicotinic acid) (% RDA), Calcium (% RDA), Phosphorus (% RDA), Magnesium (% RDA), Iron (%RDA), Zinc (% RDA), Iodine (% RDA).

- b) All or none of the following:

Polyunsaturated fat g, monounsaturated fat g, saturated fat g, cholesterol mg.

- c) A declaration of one of the following does not require a declaration of the others:

Sugar ___g, starch ___g, dietary fiber ___g.

- d) When expressing the types of constituents of carbohydrates and fats (lipids) referred to in b) and c), this should be preceded by the text "of which..."

- e) Number of servings per package.

4.3.2.2 The complementary nutritional declaration may be presented in the following manner:

Nutrients	Percentage of RDA
Vitamin A	____%
Vitamin B1 (Thiamin)	____%

Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin)	____%
Vitamin B6 (Pyridoxin)	____%
Vitamin B12 (Cobalamin)	____%
Vitamin C (Ascorbic acid)	____%
Niacin (Nicotinic acid)	____%
Folic acid (Folacin)	____%
Iron	____%
Potassium	____%

4.3.3 Instructions for use

The label must contain usage instructions when necessary regarding the method of use, including reconstitution if that is the case, in order to ensure correct utilization of the prepackaged food or nonalcoholic beverage.

4.4 Additional information

Any information or graphic representation may be shown on the label, as well as written, printed or graphic material, provided that it is not in contradiction with the mandatory requirements of this standard, including those referring to the declaration of properties given in section 4.1.1.

4.4.1 When quality designations are used, they must be easily understood, and not be equivocal or deceitful in any way for the consumer.

4.3.4.2 The label may also show any information or graphic representation indicating that the container for the food or nonalcoholic beverage does not affect the environment, so long as it avoids being false or equivocal for the consumer.

5 Calculations

5.1 Nutrient calculation

5.1.1 Energy calculation

The amount of energy to be declared must be calculated by using the following conversion factors:

Carbohydrates	17 kJ or 4 kcal/g
Proteins	27 kJ or 4 kcal/g
Fats (lipids)	38 kJ or 9 kcal/g

5.1.2 Protein calculation

The amount of proteins to be declared must be calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{Protein} = \text{total nitrogen content Kjeldahl} \times 6.25$$

5.13 In the case of products derived from wheat, the following formula applies:

$$\text{Protein} = \text{total nitrogen content Kjeldahl} \times 5.7$$

6 Prohibited property statements

6.1 The use of the following statements is prohibited:

6.1.1 Regarding properties

Statements that imply that a recommended diet with ordinary foods or nonalcoholic beverages cannot supply sufficient quantities of all the nutrients.

Statements of properties that cannot be proved.

Statements of properties on the usefulness of a food or nonalcoholic beverage to prevent, relieve, treat or cure a disease, disorder or physiological state.

Statements of properties that may raise doubts **about the safety of** similar foods or nonalcoholic beverages or cause or exploit fear on the part of the consumer and utilize this for commercial purposes.

Statements that indicate that a food or nonalcoholic beverage has acquired a special or superior nutritional value thanks to the addition of nutrients, such as vitamins, minerals or proteins (amino acids).

6.1.2 Leading to error

Statements of properties without meaning, including the use of comparatives and superlatives.

Statements or properties regarding correct hygiene or commercial practices, such as “genuineness”, “healthfulness”, “sanitation”, except those indicated in other applicable legal codes.

Statements of properties that affirm the “organic” or “biological” nature of a food or nonalcoholic beverage, except in those cases in which it is proved that the product really has that characteristic.

7 Warning texts

7.1 Warning texts must refer to the ingredient or origin of the ingredient that, based on recognized scientific information, is associated with real or potential risks related to digestive intolerance, allergies or metabolic diseases or toxicity.

7.2 The specific warning texts by product and its characteristics will be established in the corresponding official standards.

7.3 Warning texts may be included that promote a recommended diet.

7.4 The presentation of the texts must comply with what is established in section 4.2.10 of this standard.

8 Enforcement

Enforcement of this standard will be made by the competent agencies, in accordance with the applicable legal codes and the verification units accredited for that purpose.

9 Bibliography

- Federal Law on Metrology and Standardization (D.O. 1/07192).
- Federal Consumer Protection Law (I.O. 24112192).
- Codex Alimentarius VI - Standards and Guidelines of the Codex for labeling foods and food additives, 1987. FAD/WHO.
- General Law on Health.
- Regulations of the General Law on Health on Aspects of Sanitary Control of Activities, Establishments, Products and Services.

10 Concordance with international standards

This Official Mexican Standard concurs with these Codex standards:

- CODEX STAN 1-1985. General Standard for Labeling Packaged Foods.
- CODEX STAN 107-1981. General Standard for Labeling Food Additives that are sold as such.
- CAC/GL 1-1979. Codex Guidelines - Part II. General guidelines on Property Declarations.
- CAC/GL 2-1985. Codex Guidelines - Part II. General Guidelines on Nutritional Labeling.
- Codex Guidelines - Part II. Guidelines on Marking the Date of Prepackaged Foods for the Use of Codex Committees

Mexico City, Federal District, January 3, 1996. General Director of Standards, Ma. **Eugenia Bracho Gonzalez.- Signature.**