



National Standard of the People's Republic of China

GB 13432—2004
Replace GB 13432—1992

General standard for the labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses

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Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China

Foreword

This standard is mandatory except for Sections 5.3 to 5.5 which are recommendatory.

This standard is not equivalent to the CAC Codex General Standard for the Labeling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CODEX STAN 146—1985) and Guidelines for Use of Nutrition Claims (CAC/GL 23—1997).

This standard replaces GB 13432—1992 “Labeling of foods for special nutrient”.

In comparison with GB 13432—1992, the major changes of this standard are as follows:

- The name of this standard has been changed to “General standard for the labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses”;
- Section 4 “Basic principles” and Section 6 “Basic requirements” of GB 13432—1992 have been incorporated to become Section 4 “Basic requirements” of this standard;
- The permission of declaration of “Claim on energy level and nutrient content” has been added (see 5.4.1);
- The permission of declaration of “Comparative claim on energy value and nutrient content” has been added (see 5.4.2);
- The permission of declaration of “Nutrient function claim” has been added (see 5.4.3);
- The permission of declaration of “Format of declaration, method of expression and tolerance limit of values declared for energy and nutrient content of foods” has been added (see Appendix A).

GB 13432—2004 is one of the series of national standards on food labeling. Other related national standards include:

GB 7718—2004 “General standard for the labeling of prepackaged foods” (replacing GB 7718—1994);

GB 10344—1989 “Standard for the labeling of alcoholic beverages”.

Appendix A of this standard is a normative appendix.

This standard is proposed and interpreted by the China National Food Industry Standardization Committee of Technique.

GB 13432—2004

This standard was drafted by the Drafting Group of the China National Food Industry Standardization Committee of Technique.

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This standard was issued first on April, 1992, and adjusted for the first time on May, 2004.

General standard for the labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses

1 Scope

This standard prescribes the followings:

- basic requirements for the labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses (see Section 4);
- mandatory labeling information in the labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses (see 5.1);
- exemptions from mandatory labeling requirements in the labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses (see 5.2);
- non-mandatory labeling information in the labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses (see 5.3);
- permitted labeling information in the labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses (see 5.4);
- recommended labeling information in the labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses (see 5.5).

This standard applies to the labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses as defined in Section 3.1 to be offered as such to the consumer.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies.

GB 7718—2004 General standard for the labeling of prepackaged foods

Chinese Dietary Reference Intakes (a monograph of the Chinese Nutrition Society, first edition, April, 2001)

3 Terms and definitions

The terminologies and definitions as laid down in GB 7718—2004 shall apply to this standard.

3.1

foods for special dietary uses

Foods for special dietary uses are those which are specially processed or formulated to satisfy particular dietary requirements which exist because of a particular physical or physiological condition and/or specific diseases and disorders and which are presented as such^x.

The composition of these foodstuffs must differ significantly from the composition of ordinary foods with comparable nature, if such ordinary foods exist.

3.2

nutrient

Nutrients are substances which are absorbed from foods to maintain the normal growth and development, activities, and metabolism of the human body. They fall into 5 main categories: protein, carbohydrate, fat, minerals and vitamins. They also include water and dietary fiber, as well as other substances which are beneficial and indispensable to human body.

3.3

recommended nutrient intake (RNI)

Recommended nutrient intake (RNI) is the daily dietary intake level of a certain nutrient, established via experiments, that is sufficient to meet the needs of the normal physiological functions and activities of most (97%—98%) individuals in a healthy population. Maintaining the recommended nutrient intake in the long term can provide appropriate reserve for the human body.

3.4

adequate intake (AI)

Adequate intake (AI) is the daily intake level of a certain nutrient by individuals in a healthy population established via observation or survey. Both the adequate intake (AI) and the recommended nutrient intake (RNI) can satisfy the requirement of almost each individual in a population, and the adequate intake (AI) is far less accurate than the recommended nutrient intake (RNI).

4 Basic requirements

The labeling of prepackaged foods for special dietary uses shall be in accordance with Section 4 of GB 7718—2004. The following labeling information is prohibited:

- a) Any claims as to the prevention, alleviation, treatment or cure of a disease.
- b) Claims like “rejuvenating function”, “promising longevity”, “reverting white hair to dark”, “regenerating an exfoliated tooth”, “preventing and curing cancer” or their equivalents.
- c) The use of a drug’s name immediately before or after the name of a food, or the use of the pictorial and name of a drug implying the treatment and functional effects of such food (does not

^x This includes foods for infants and young children.

apply to substances which can be used both as a drug and food).

5 Labeling information

5.1 Mandatory labeling information

5.1.1 The name of the food

5.1.1.1 It shall be declared in accordance with Section 5.1.1 of GB 7718—2004.

5.1.1.2 Descriptions like “Infant formula milk powder”, “Sugar-free instant soy powder” (for diabetics), “Iron-fortified high-protein instant soy powder” (for anemia patients), or other descriptions with special qualification may be used in conjunction with the name only where the product corresponds to the definition as in Section 3.1.

5.1.2 List of ingredients and quantitative labeling of ingredients

It shall be declared in accordance with Sections 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of GB 7718—2004.

5.1.3 Energy and nutrients

Protein, fat, carbohydrate, and the vitamin and mineral contents that are characteristic of the food for special dietary purposes, shall be declared as Appendix A, based on the nutrients which actually exist in the product, together with the corresponding energy value.

The prepackaged foods for special dietary uses with nutritional fortification substances added shall have the content of such fortified nutrients declared.

5.1.4 Net contents and drained weight

Net contents and drained weight shall be declared in accordance with Section 5.1.4 of GB 7718—2004.

5.1.5 Name and address of manufacturer and distributor

Name and address of manufacturer and distributor shall be declared in accordance with Section 5.1.5 of GB 7718—2004.

5.1.6 Date marking and storage instructions

5.1.6.1 The marking of production date and date of minimum durability shall be declared in accordance with Section 5.1.6 of GB 7718—2004, in addition the use-by date may be declared.

5.1.6.2 If the date of minimum durability or the use-by date of the prepackaged foods for special dietary uses is related to storage conditions, then such storage conditions shall also be declared.

5.1.6.3 A warning shall be included on the label, if the food for special dietary uses is not capable of being stored after opening or is not capable of being stored in the container after opening.

5.1.7 Instruction for use and target population group

5.1.7.1 The instruction for use and the intake amount per day or per serving of the food for special dietary uses shall be included on the label. If necessary, the preparation method or the reconstitution method shall also be included.

5.1.7.2 The target population group of the food for special dietary uses shall be declared.

5.1.8 Code of the product standard

The code of the product standard shall be declared in accordance with Section 5.1.7 of GB 7718—2004.

5.1.9 Quality grades

The quality grades shall be declared in accordance with Section 5.1.8 of GB 7718—2004.

5.1.10 Other mandatory labeling information

Other mandatory labeling shall be declared in accordance with Section 5.1.9 of GB 7718—2004.

5.2 Exemptions from mandatory labeling requirements

Exemptions from the mandatory labeling requirements shall be in accordance with Section 5.2 of GB 7718—2004.

5.3 Non- mandatory labeling information

The batch identification of the product shall be declared, if necessary.

5.4 Permitted labeling information

5.4.1 Claim on energy level and nutrient content

Any prepackaged food for special dietary uses which meets with the conditions in Table 1 may make claims on their energy value and nutrient content, for example, “low in energy”, “low in fat”, “low in cholesterol”, “sugar-free” and “low in sodium”.

Table 1

Component	Claim	Conditions(not more than)	
Energy	Low	Solid foods: 170 kJ/100 g	
		Liquid foods: 80 kJ/100 mL	
Energy	Free	Liquid foods: 17 kJ/100 mL	
	Fat	Low	Solid foods: 3 g/100 g
Liquid foods: 1.5g/100 mL			
Fat	Free	Solid or liquid foods: 0.5 g/100 g (100 mL)	
	Saturated fat	Low	Solid foods: 1.5 g/100 g and less than 10% of energy
Liquid foods: 0.75 g/100 mL and less than 10% of energy			
Free		Solid or liquid foods: 0.1 g/100g (100mL)	
Cholesterol	Low	Cholesterol	Solid foods: 20mg /100 g
			Liquid foods: 10mg/100mL
		Saturated Fat	Solid foods: 1.5g/100g; Less than 10% of energy
			Liquid foods: 0.75g/100mL; Less than 10% of energy
	Free	Cholesterol	Solid or liquid foods: 5 mg/100g (100mL)
		Saturated Fat	Solid foods: 1.5g/100g; Less than 10% of energy
Saturated Fat	Liquid foods: 0.75g/100mL; Less than 10% of energy		
	Sugar (including all monosaccharide and disaccharide)	Free	Solid or liquid foods:0.5g/100g(100ml)
Sodium	Low	Solid foods: 120mg/100g	
	Very low	Solid foods: 40mg/100g	
	Free	Solid foods: 5mg/100g	

Note: Saturated fat means the fatty acids in the fat are saturated, but the calculation is based on fat.

5.4.2 Comparative claim on energy value and nutrient content

Comparative claim on energy value and nutrient content, for example, "reduced", "increased", "less than"(lower than), "more than"(greater than, higher than) etc. should be permitted for pre-packaged foods for special dietary uses, provided the provisions of Sections 5.4.2.1 to 5.4.2.3 are fulfilled.

5.4.2.1 The foods being compared should be different versions of the same food or similar foods.

and the foods being compared should be readily identified by consumers.

5.4.2.2 The difference in energy value or nutrient content between the foods being compared should be expressed as a percentage or an absolute amount.

5.4.2.3 The comparison should be based on a relative difference of at least 25% in the energy value or nutrient content between the compared foods.

5.4.3 Nutrient function claim

Claims on certain nutrients having the physiological function of maintaining the normal growth and development of the body should be permitted for prepackaged foods for special dietary uses, provided the provisions of Sections 5.4.3.1 to 5.4.3.3 are fulfilled.

Examples:

“Calcium aids in the development of strong bones and teeth and can maintain bone density”;

“Protein helps build and repair body tissue”;

“Iron is a factor in red blood cell formation”;

“Vitamin E protects the fat in body tissues from oxidation”;

“Folic acid contributes to the normal growth of the fetus”.

The claim should not imply or include any statement to the effect that the nutrient would provide a cure or treatment for, or protection from disease; nor can a claim be made that the product itself possesses the functions of certain nutrients.

5.4.3.1 The nutrient claimed in the particular product and that in the corresponding ordinary food should have a relative difference of at least 25%.

5.4.3.2 The nutrient of which the claim is made should be of significant content in the product claimed.

5.4.3.3 The nutrient function claimed should be based on the scientific consensus which is supported by competent authority.

5.5 Recommended labeling information

5.5.1 In addition to the declaration of nutrient content, the amount of nutrient per serving or per 100 g(100 mL) of food can be expressed as a percentage of Recommended Nutrient Intake (RNI) established in the *Chinese Dietary Reference Intake*, based on the target population group, e.g. X%.

5.5.2 In case there is no specific Recommended Nutrient Intake (RNI) established in the *Chinese Dietary Referenced Intakes*, the amount of nutrient per serving or per 100 g(100 mL) of food can be expressed as a percentage of Adequate Intake (AI) established in the *Chinese Dietary Reference Intakes*, based on the target population group, e.g. X%.

Appendix A
(normative)

Format of declaration, method of expression and tolerance limit of values declared
for energy and nutrient content of foods

A.1 Format of declaration for energy and nutrient content

A.1.1 Energy

A.1.1.1 The energy value per 100 g (100 mL) or per serving (per portion) of the food for special dietary uses should be declared.

A.1.1.2 Information on energy value should be expressed in kilojoule (kJ) or joule (J).

Examples: 1966 kJ/100g, or 1966 kJ/100mL.

Note: The energy of food refers to the energy that can offer the burning energy (heated energy).

A.1.1.3 The amount of energy to be declared should be calculated by using the following conversion factors:

Carbohydrates	17 kJ/g
Protein	17 kJ/g
Fat	37 kJ/g
Alcohol	29 kJ/g
Organic acid	13 kJ/g

A.1.2 Protein, fat, dietary fiber and carbohydrate (refers to available carbohydrate)

The contents (g) of protein, fat, dietary fiber and carbohydrate (refers to available carbohydrate) per 100g (or 100 mL) or per serving (portion) of the food should be declared.

Where the type of carbohydrate is declared, the following format should be used:

Each 100g or 100 mL contains × × g carbohydrate, of which × × sugar (such as glucose or cane sugar) × × g.

A.1.3 Vitamins

The vitamin content per 100g (100mL) or per serving (portion) of the food should be declared [in mg, μg or International Unit (IU)].

Vitamin B₁, Vitamin B₂ and Vitamin C should be expressed in mg or μg ;
Vitamin A, Vitamin D and Vitamin E should be expressed in International Unit (IU), mg or μg .

A.1.4 Minerals and trace elements

The mineral and trace element content per 100g (100mL) or per serving (portion) of the food should be declared [in mg or μg].

A.2 Format of expression and allowed tolerance of values declared

Any one method, or a combination of any two or three methods under Sections A.2.1 to A.2.3 may be used. But the method under Section A.2.1 is more easily understood by consumers.

A.2.1 Declare a range: for example, “the protein content per 100 mL of pasteurized pure milk is in the range 3.0% to 3.5%”, “the iron content per 100g of milk powder is in the range 6 mg to 11 mg.”

By using this method of expression, the actual nutrient content shall not exceed the range of the values declared.

A.2.2 Declare an average value: for example, “the average protein content per 100 mL of pure pasteurized milk is 3.0g”, “the average iron content per 100g milk powder is 8 mg”. Alternatively, the “average nutrient content per 100g (100mL)” may be indicated in the appropriate place of the nutrient content table.

When using this method of expression, the actual content of the fortified or naturally existing nutrient shall not be less than 80% of the value declared. Where claims are made on “low calories”, “low sugar”, “low fat”, “low saturated fat”, “low cholesterol” or “low sodium”, the actual content of these substances shall not be more than 20% of the value declared.

A.2.3 Declare the lowest or highest value: for example, “the protein content per 100 mL of pasteurized pure milk shall not be less than 3.0g” (or “the protein content is not less than 3.0g/100mL”); “the fat content per 100g of skimmed milk powder shall not be more than 1.5g” (or “the fat content shall not be more than 1.5g/100g”).

When using this method of expression, the actual content of the nutrient shall not be higher or lower than the corresponding values declared.
