

# Nutrition Labelling Fact Sheet

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Nutrition Labelling is legislated by Health Canada and enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Amendments to the regulations were made December 12, 2002. Small businesses with less than \$1M in annual revenue have until **December 12, 2007** to comply. (Businesses over \$1M in revenue had to comply by December 12, 2005).

Nutrition Labels can be generated using:

- A database
- Laboratory analysis

Nutrition labels are also required for Canadian products imported into the United States (US).

**Database Nutrition Analysis** is one of the services provided by the Food Centre. The cost is \$150.00 for the Canadian format. The US format is also available. If your product or process is unique and information is unavailable in the database, the Food Centre sends a sample of the product to a recognized laboratory for specific tests. Results of lab tests are entered into the database prior to generating the nutrition label. Costs for laboratory analysis are additional. Please contact Sara Lui at the Food Centre for more information (phone: 306-933-7822; e-mail [slui@foodcentre.sk.ca](mailto:slui@foodcentre.sk.ca)). Other services provided by the Food Centre can be viewed at [www.foodcentre.sk.ca](http://www.foodcentre.sk.ca).

**Laboratory Analysis** for nutrition labels is relatively more expensive than database analysis. SunWest Food Laboratory Ltd., located at Innovation Place in Saskatoon, is a CFIA- and Standards Council of Canada (SCC)-accredited laboratory and performs tests for nutrition labels. SunWest Food Laboratory also provides database nutrition analysis. For more information please contact SunWest Labs at 306-934-3600 (phone) or by e-mail at [sunwest@sunwestlab.ca](mailto:sunwest@sunwestlab.ca). Services provided by SunWest Labs can be viewed at <http://www.sunwestlab.ca/services.htm#food>.

BDS Laboratories, located in Qu'Appelle, has CFIA and American Association for Laboratory Accreditation. BDS Laboratories performs tests to confirm nutrient levels. Contact BDS Labs for more information (phone: 306-699-2679; e-mail: [bds.laboratories@sasktel.net](mailto:bds.laboratories@sasktel.net); website: <http://www.bdslabs.com>).

Due to the relatively high costs of laboratory analyses, database nutrition labels are acceptable to Health Canada and the CFIA. However, because product labelling is the responsibility of the food processor, as a precaution, if your product formulation (recipe) has been standardized and will not change from batch to batch, it would be desirable to perform a one time laboratory analysis on your product(s). This will allow the processor to compare nutrition facts from lab analysis to nutrition facts from a database.

Health Canada, in collaboration with CFIA, recently released a "Guide to Developing Accurate Nutrient Values" as a tool for further understanding the importance of accurate nutrient values for nutrition labelling. More information on the guide can be found at [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/label-etiquet/nutrition/reg/guide-nutri\\_val\\_tc-tm\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/label-etiquet/nutrition/reg/guide-nutri_val_tc-tm_e.html).

## **Programs for Nutrition Labelling**

- The Saskatchewan Food Processors Association (SFPA) received funding from Advancing Canadian Agriculture & Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) for nutrition labelling of new and existing products. Funding ends September 30, 2008 and is on a first-come first-serve basis. Members and non-members of SFPA are eligible for funding for up to \$10,000. Labelling costs cover Canadian and US formats. Funding can also be used for UPC codes etc. Please check out SFPA's website at

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<http://www.sfpa.sk.ca/programs.html#> or contact Darrell Schneider at 306-683-2412 or [schneider@sfpa.sk.ca](mailto:schneider@sfpa.sk.ca).

- The Agri-Value Program managed by Agriculture Research Branch of Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture will provide funding for nutrition labelling provided it comprises part of the work plan for the development of a new product. Contact Doug Pchajek in Regina at 306-787-5924 or [dpchajek@agr.gov.sk.ca](mailto:dpchajek@agr.gov.sk.ca) for more information.