

Meat Products Packed With Small Packets of Gravy, Sauces, or Seasoning

Effective Date: May 15, 2002

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Background

What are the labeling requirements for hams or partial hams containing a "glaze packet"? Where must the packet be declared?

➤ USDA - Standards and Labeling Policy Book, Policy Memo 099 dated Sept. 02, 1986. (Below)

Stores sell hams or partial hams that contain a "glaze packet" that can be used for adding flavor to the ham during cooking. Some stores deduct the packet as tare, and some do not. Some declare it on the store scale label, and some do not.

Policy

In accordance with USDA Policy Memo 099 (attached), the manufacturers' label and retailers' spot label must include the name of the extra packet in conjunction with the Product Identity (e.g. Ham w/glaze packet). The Net Weight statement shall include the total net weight of all the products (edible components) named in the product identity statement. Therefore, during inspections, the contents of the extra packet shall be included in weight of the product.

To: **BRANCH CHIEFS, SLD POLICY MEMO 099**

September 2, 1986

From: Margaret O'K. Glavin
Director
Standards and Labeling Division, MPITS

Subject: Labeling of Products Which Include Packets of Other Components

Issue: What sort of product name and net weight declaration is required when meat and/or poultry products are packed with small packets of gravy, sauces, seasoning mixtures or the like?

POLICY: Wording indicating that the product contains, in addition to the meat or poultry product, another component such as gravy, sauce or seasoning packet must appear in conjunction with the name of the product in such a manner that it is obvious to the purchaser that he or she is also purchasing that packet along with the meat and/or poultry product. The wording must be shown in print no smaller than one third the size of the largest letter in the rest of the product name, of such color that will insure it not being overlooked at point of purchase, and positioned contiguous to the rest of the product name and so as not to appear in whole or part on any panel except the main display panel. The net weight statement shall show the total net weight of all the edible components. In addition to the total net weight, weights of individual components may be shown but are not required.

RATIONALE: The labeling of these type products must clearly demonstrate to the consumer that he or she is paying not only for a meat and/or poultry product but also for a packet or container of another component. It was brought to this office's attention that on some labels the wording announcing the inclusion of these components was being shown in sizes, colors and positions which tended to obscure it. Therefore, it was apparent that a policy needed to be developed. The one third letter size stipulated above is the same as that required for product names by Policy Memorandum 087A. Inspectors should review label approvals for these types of products and, if they believe that they do not conform to the aforementioned policy, identify them to the Standards and Labeling Division by approval number in order that all labels can be corrected no later than November 1, 1986. The requirement that the total net weight be shown is consistent with what has been required in the past for meat and poultry products.