

FOOD

Item Pricing

The New York State item pricing law¹ expired in June of 1991 and has been replaced by regulation at the local and county level. New York City and several counties have enacted local item pricing laws and others are considering local laws.

Although local laws vary, they generally require food stores or grocery departments of a general merchandise store to disclose to the consumer the price of each consumer commodity (food for humans or pets, paper goods, cleaning products, toiletries and non-prescription drugs) by marking conspicuously the selling price on the item. They also provide that when an item is marked with a price that differs from that which is displayed by a computer controlled screen, the buyer pays only the lower price.

Item Pricing Complaints

Complaints concerning item pricing should be directed to the local county weights and measures office. Complaints arising in New York City should be directed to the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs.

Consumers in counties without local item pricing laws are protected from a higher price being charged than the price advertised (on the shelf, in a promotion or on an item itself), by General Business Law §§ 349 and 350. These complaints may be referred to the Consumer Protection Board or the county's consumer affairs office.

Open Dating

A date on a food product can indicate one of the following:

- Pull date - the last day of freshness for retail sale.
- Pack date - the processing or packaging date of the product.
- Expiration date - the final day of recommended use.

No state or federal law requires food products to be labeled with a date indicating freshness.

Special Rules for New York City Residents

• 6 RCNY §§4-112, 4-113

In New York City food stores must label eggs, dairy products, and baked goods, with the last date of sale or the last day for recommended use. A statement indicating recommended conditions and methods of storage must also be included. This is not an exhaustive list.

For further information or complaints, contact the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs.

¹ N.Y. Agriculture and Markets Law § 214-i.

Unit Pricing

• *Agriculture and Markets Law § 214-h*

Most retail stores are required to disclose the unit price of a consumer commodity. Examples include: human and pet food, paper products, cleaning products, toiletries and non-prescription drugs.

The unit price is the price per unit of measure. For example, laundry detergent is sold in many different sized packages. Unit pricing requires the disclosure of the price per pound of each size box.

Means of Disclosure

If the item is visible to the consumer, disclosure of unit pricing is required by a label attached directly under the item on the shelf. (If this is impossible, it may be placed directly adjacent to or on the commodity.) If the item is not visible, disclosure is required by a sign or list placed conspicuously near the point of sale or by affixing the unit and total price on the commodity itself.

Exceptions

Retail stores with annual gross sales of consumer commodities in the previous calendar year of less than \$2.5 million are exempt from the unit pricing disclosure requirement. The commodities exempt are as follows:

- Food sold for consumption on the premises.
- Prepackaged food containing separate and identifiable kinds of foods segregated by physical divisions within the package.
- Any food which is primarily or exclusively a gourmet or specialty food, where pricing is impractical for such food, provided that such food is segregated and displayed as a gourmet or specialty food.
- Any commodity whose net quantity as offered for sale is one pound, one ounce, one pint or quart, one hundred count, one foot, one hundred feet, one square foot, one square yard or equivalent metric units established by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, provided that it has the retail price marked plainly thereon.
- Milk, similar low fat products, cream, melloream and vegetable oil blend whose net quantity as offered for sale is one half pint, one pint, one gallon, one half liter, or one liter.
- Frozen dessert (ice cream, sherbet, sorbet, frozen yogurt) whose net quantity as offered for sale is one half pint, one pint, one quart, one half gallon, one gallon, and multiples of quarts and gallons.
- Butter, vegetable spread, oleo margarine and margarine whose net quantity is one fourth pound, one half pound, one pound, or multiples of one pound, 125 grams, 250 grams, 500 grams or multiples of 500 grams.
- Flour whose net quantity as offered for sale is five or ten pounds bags.
- Fresh food produce.

Violations should be reported to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, or the local office of weights and measures.

Milk Pricing

Effective in 1991, the State enacted a milk price gouging law² which prohibits retailers from charging an unconscionably excessive price for milk and establishes a formula for the Department of Agriculture and Markets to set a “trigger price” for investigation of retail prices. If the Commissioner finds that a price for fluid milk appears unconscionably excessive, any retailer who charges such price must justify his or her costs to the Department of Agriculture and Markets, or discontinue such price level.

The trigger price is determined by the Department for fluid milk, and changes at regular intervals based on the price for raw milk.

Complaints of high milk prices should be referred to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Kosher Labeling

• *Agriculture and Markets Law § 201-a et seq.*

State law prohibits the labeling and advertising of food and meat as “kosher” or “kosher for Passover” unless it is kosher.

Food and meat cannot be sold as “kosher” or “kosher for Passover” unless it has been properly marked with a kosher or kosher for Passover identification symbol by the manufacturer or packer.

Food and meat marked “rabbinical supervision,” “kosher,” “kosher for Passover,” or with a “K”, “KM”, “KOS”, or “KP” shall not be offered for sale until 30 days after the name, address, and telephone number of the supervising rabbi or certifying organization is registered with the State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Non-kosher food and meat may not be labeled or advertised with the words “Jewish” or “Hebrew,” either alone or with such words as “style” or “type”, unless the word “non- kosher” is displayed in at least the same size print.

Retailers and wholesalers of Kosher meat and poultry must keep records regarding the origin of such products and make them available for inspection by the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Fresh meat and poultry offered for sale as kosher must be properly marked on the label when packaged or by a sign when not packaged with the words “soaked and salted” or “not soaked and salted.” In addition, meat sold as kosher must be washed in accordance with orthodox Hebrew religious requirements prior to sale.

Complaints should be referred to:

Division of Food Safety and Inspection
One Winners Circle
Albany, NY 12235
(518) 457-4492

² N.Y. N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 396-rr.

Division of Food Safety and Inspection
W.J. Donovan State Office Building
125 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

Kosher Law Enforcement
55 Manson Place
Third Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11217
1-718-722-2839

Farm Product Dealer Licensing and Producer Security

• *Agriculture and Markets Law Art. 20*

The State's Agriculture and Markets Law provides for the licensing of all dealers who receive farm products in excess of \$10,000 annually direct from New York State producers for sale other than at retail. All farm products produced in New York are covered with the exception of dairy, eggs, and timber. Dealers who handle livestock and who are registered and bonded with the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration are exempt from the licensing and bonding provisions of Article 20.

Article 20 also provides a measure of security for producers who transact business with licensed dealers. It is extremely important, however, that producers understand and protect their rights to coverage under the Law. The following summarizes the provisions that affect producer eligibility for payments against a dealer's surety bond or letter of credit and/or from the Agricultural Producers Security Fund. Only transactions with licensed dealers are covered.

Dealers are obligated to pay producers within 30 days of product delivery. This is known as prompt payment. If a dealer fails to pay within 60 days and the producer makes one or more subsequent deliveries to the dealer the latter transactions are not covered. For example, if product is delivered on April 1, and payment is not received by May 30, any delivery of product after May 30 will not be covered.

The 30 day period during which prompt payment is required may be extended upon the mutual consent of the producer and the dealer prior to the delivery of the product (up to a maximum period of 120 days). Such agreement must be in writing and be signed by the dealer and accepted by the producer.

If a dealer does not pay promptly, the producer must file a claim with the State Department of Agriculture and Markets within 120 days of the dealer's failure to pay. However, if the Department publishes a notice in a local newspaper advising that a dealer has failed to pay one or more producers promptly, then any producer who is owed payment by that dealer must file a claim with the Department within 30 days of the newspaper notice to retain coverage.

In the event a dealer fails to pay promptly, producers may also wish to consult their attorney concerning the advisability of filing a producer lien. Under Article 20, a notice of lien must be filed within 30 days of the date upon which payment from the dealer is due and remains unpaid in order to continue the automatic statutory lien created at the time of delivery of the farm products. Additionally, the producer of fruits and vegetables may wish to file a claim under the federal Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA).³ This law may provide added protection to the producer in the event that a dealer fails to pay for products delivered.

³ 7 USC §§ 499a – 499t.

For further information concerning Article 20 of the Agriculture and Markets Law or to request a copy of the statute, contact the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets' Division of Agricultural Protection and Development Services at 1-800-554-4501. Inquiries concerning PACA should be directed to the USDA Fruit and Vegetable Division at 732-846-4798. The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration may be reached at 717-299-6313.

Home Food Service Plans

• *Agriculture and Markets Law § 190-a*

All of the terms and conditions of a home food service plan sale must be contained in a written contract furnished to the buyer at the time of execution of the contract. A buyer may cancel the contract until midnight of the third business day after the day on which the buyer executed the contract or after the day on which the seller provided the buyer with a fully executed copy of the contract, whichever is later.

A seller of a home food service plan must disclose the following information in the contract:

- The name and address of the seller.
- Whether substitutions of food items may be made, under what circumstances they will be made, the substitution values in terms of price, and whether a buyer can refuse substitution.
- The terms and conditions of any food spoilage protection.
- That the buyer does not have to enter into an additional home food service plan contract, purchase any appliance, purchase food spoilage protection or purchase any other product from the seller in order to enter into a home food service plan.
- The USDA quality grade of the meat supplied if so graded, and its original source, if available.
- An itemized list of the components of the home food service plan.
- The estimated weight of each meat, poultry and seafood item offered for sale under the home food service plan. The actual weight at time of delivery may not vary from this estimate by more than five percent.
- The price per pound of each meat, poultry and seafood item to be supplied.
- The total price of the home food service plan, the service charge and the estimated price of each meat, poultry and seafood item to be supplied.
- The weight, measure or count and unit price of all other food and non-food items supplied for sale.
- That at the time of delivery the seller is required to provide the buyer with an itemized list stating the identity; original source, if applicable; weight; measure or count; total number of packages supplied; price per pound (which must be the price specified in the home food service plan contract) and total price of each food and non-food item included in the sale.
- That the buyer may cancel the contract until midnight of the third business day after the day on which the buyer executed the contract or after the day the buyer obtained a copy of the contract, whichever is later, by giving written notice of cancellation to the seller. Ten days

after cancellation, the seller must return to the buyer any note or other evidence of indebtedness and refund to the buyer any payment made, minus the price of the actual amount of food and non-food products delivered to and not tendered by the buyer following cancellation. Notice of cancellations made when deposited in a mailbox properly addressed and postage paid.

Bulk Meat Sales

• *Agriculture and Markets Law § 190-b*

A seller of a single carcass, side, quarter or primal source on a gross or hanging weight basis must provide to the buyer, in writing, the name and address of the seller; the estimated gross or hanging weight; the USDA quality grade, if so graded; the estimated price; the estimated cutting loss; a list, by name and estimated count, of each cut to be derived from each primal source; the price per pound of the carcass, side, quarter or primal source before cutting and wrapping; additional costs, if any, of cutting, wrapping and freezing.

These disclosure requirements shall not apply to a seller whose total annual retail sales are less than \$10,000.

These disclosure requirements shall not apply to the sale of any carcass, side, quarter, or primal source of meat with a gross or hanging weight of 50 pounds or less.

Violations of this law should be reported to the local office of the New York State Attorney General or the State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Sulfiting Agents

• *Agriculture and Markets Law § 199-d*

It shall be unlawful for any retail or wholesale distributor of foods to add sulfating agents in, or to, the foods they sell, offer or expose for sale, or serve.

This prohibition shall not apply to the sale by a manufacturer or grower to a retail or wholesale distributor of any such foods except fruits and vegetables which are to be sold, offered for sale or served raw, by such distributor at retail.

Labeling and Packaging

• *Agriculture and Markets Law §§ 62, 68, 199-a, 201 and 214-m*

No person, firm, association or corporation shall offer, sell or expose for sale, any article of food which is misbranded. Generally, food shall be deemed to be misbranded if it is offered for sale under the name of another article, if it purports to be or is represented as a food for which a standard of identity has been prescribed or its labeling is false or misleading in any particular.

New York law makes it unlawful to offer, sell or expose for sale, in any package, butter or cheese which is falsely branded or labeled.⁴

No business shall, in connection or association with the sale or exposure for sale, advertisement, or on the package, of any substance designed to be used as a substitute for butter, represent or suggest by any means whatever that such substance is a dairy product.⁵

⁴ N.Y. Agriculture and Markets Law § 68.

If a business that processes, manufactures or imports food products places information on the shipping crate, pallet or invoice, State law⁶ makes it unlawful for any person to alter, destroy or remove this information. The information protected by this section includes expiration or “use date” information, as well as information that would help the manufacturer, importer or processor identify the food product in the future (including lot number, batch number, date of manufacture). Note that this statute does not circumvent any federal, state or local laws for placing the expiration date on an item of food, nor does state law prevent a manufacturer or distributor from correcting any inaccurate information.

Federal Food Labeling Guidelines

•21 CFR §§ 101-1, 101-2, 101.3, 101.5 and 101.105

There are two recommended ways to label packages and containers:

- Place all required label statements on the front label panel (the principal display panel or PDP).
- Place certain specified label statements on the principal display panel and other labeling on the information panel (the label panel immediately to the right of the principal display panel, as seen by the consumer facing the product).

The principal display panel, or PDP, is that portion of the package label that is most likely to be seen by the consumer at the time of purchase. Many containers are designed with two or more different surfaces that are suitable for display as the PDP. These are alternate principal display panels.⁷

Manufacturers and producers are required to place the statement of identity, or name of the food, and the net quantity statement, or amount of product, on the PDP and on the alternate PDP.⁸

The information panel is the label panel immediately to the right of the PDP, as displayed to the consumer. If this panel is not usable, due to package design and construction, (e.g., folded flaps), then the information panel is the next label panel immediately to the right.⁹

The phrase “information panel labeling” refers to the label statements that are generally required to be placed together, without any intervening material, on the information panel, if such labeling does not appear on the PDP. These label statements include the name and address of the manufacturer, packer or distributor, the ingredient list, and nutrition labeling.¹⁰

For information panel labeling print or type size must be prominent, conspicuous and easy to read. Letters are required to be at least one-sixteenth (1/16) inch in height based on the lower case letter “o”. The letters must not be more than three times as high as they are wide, and the lettering must contrast sufficiently with the background so as to be easy to read.

Manufacturers should not crowd required labeling with artwork or non-required labeling. Smaller type sizes may be used for information panel labeling on very small food packages.¹¹

⁵ N.Y. Agriculture and Markets Law § 62.

⁶ N.Y. Agriculture and Markets Law § 214-m.

⁷ 21 CFR 101.1.

⁸ 21 CFR 101.3(a) and 101.105(a).

⁹ 21 CFR 101.2(a).

¹⁰ 21 CFR 101.2(b) and (d).

¹¹ 21 CFR 101.2(c).

Federal regulations¹² require food labels to list the following:

- Name and address of the manufacturer, packer or distributor. Unless the name given is the actual manufacturer, it must be accompanied by a qualifying phrase which states the firm's relation to the product, e.g., "manufactured for" or "distributed by."
- Street address if the firm name and address are not listed in a current city directory or telephone book.
- City or town.
- State (or country, if outside the United States); and
- Zip code (or mailing code used in countries other than the United States).

Every food package sold must bear an identification of what type and quantity of food is contained within it.¹³ This must appear on the front label, or principal display panel, or any information panel. Manufacturers are required to use prominent print or type for the statement of identity. It shall be in bold type. The type size must be reasonably related to the most prominent printed matter on the front panel and should be one of the most important features on the principal display panel. Generally, this is considered to be at least 1/2 the size of the largest print on the label.¹⁴

The common or usual name of the food, if the food has one, should be used as the statement of identity. If there is none, then an appropriate descriptive name that is not misleading should be used.¹⁵ The statement of identity should be placed in lines generally parallel to the base of the package.¹⁶ When the nature of the food is obvious, a fanciful name commonly used and understood by the public may be used.¹⁷ However, the common or usual name must be used for a food if it has one. It would be considered misleading to label a food that has an established name with a new name. If the food is subject to a standard of identity it must bear the name specified in the standard.¹⁸

Labels must describe the form of the food in the package if the food is sold in different optional forms such as sliced and un-sliced, whole or halves, etc.¹⁹

A new food that resembles a traditional food and is a substitute for the traditional food must be labeled as an imitation if the new food contains less protein or a lesser amount of any essential vitamin or mineral.²⁰ Manufacturers should use the same type size and prominence for the word "imitation" as is used for the name of the product imitated.²¹

¹² 21 CFR 101.5.

¹³ 21 CFR 101.3.

¹⁴ 21 CFR 101.3(d).

¹⁵ 21 CFR 101.3(b).

¹⁶ 21 CFR 101.3(d).

¹⁷ 21 CFR 101.3(b)(3).

¹⁸ 21 CFR 101.3(b)(2).

¹⁹ 21 CFR 101.3(c).

²⁰ 21 CFR 101.3(e).

²¹ 21 CFR 101.3(e).

Juice Labeling

•21 CFR §101.30

Beverages that purport to contain juice (fruit or vegetable juice) must declare the percent of juice contained within the product. Included are beverages that purport to contain juice by way of label statements, by pictures of fruits or vegetables on the label, or by taste and appearance causing the consumer to expect juice in the beverage. This includes non-carbonated and carbonated beverages, full-strength (100%) juices, concentrated juices, diluted juices, and beverages that purport to contain juice but contain no juice.²²

The percent of juice must be on the information panel, near the top. Only the brand name, product name, logo, or universal product code may be placed above it. Use easily legible boldface print or type that distinctly contrasts with the other printed or graphic material. The type size for the percentage juice declaration must be not less than the largest type on the information panel, except that used for the brand name, product name, logo, universal product code, or the title phrase “Nutrition Facts.”

The percentage juice declaration may be either “contains ____% juice” or “____% juice.” The name of the fruit or vegetable may also be included (e.g., “100% Apple Juice”).²³ An exception to this requirement provides that beverages containing minor amounts of juice for flavoring are not required to bear a percentage juice declaration provided that:

- The product is described using the term “flavor” or “flavored.”
- The term “juice” is not used other than in the ingredient list.
- The beverages do not otherwise give the impression they contain juice.²⁴

Juice content expressed directly from fruit or vegetables should be computed on a volume/volume basis. Juice made by adding water to concentrate should be calculated using values from the Brix table in 21 CFR 101.30(h)(1) as the basis for 100% juice.²⁵

Beverages that are 100% juice may be called “juice.” However, beverages diluted to less than 100% juice must have the word “juice” qualified with a term such as “beverage,” “drink,” or “cocktail.” Alternatively, the product may be labeled with a name using the form “diluted ____ juice,” (e.g. “diluted apple juice”).²⁶

Juices made from concentrate must be labeled with terms such as “from concentrate,” or “reconstituted” as part of the name wherever it appears on the label. An exception is that, in the ingredient statement, the juice is declared as “concentrated ____ juice and water” or “water and concentrated ____ juice,” as appropriate.²⁷

When stated, names of juices (except in the ingredient list) must be in descending order of predominance by volume, unless the label indicates that the named juice is used as a flavor. Examples:

“Apple, Pear and Raspberry Juice Drink”
“Raspberry-Flavored Apple and Pear Juice Drink”

²² 21 CFR 101.30(a).

²³ 21 CFR 101.30(e).

²⁴ 21 CFR 101.30(c).

²⁵ 21 CFR 101.30(j), 101.30(h).

²⁶ 21 CFR 102.33(g).

²⁷ 21 CFR 102.33(g).

If the label represents one or more but not all the juices (except in the ingredient list), then the name must indicate that more juices are present. Examples:

“Apple Juice Blend”
“Apple Juice in a Blend of Two Other Fruit Juices”

When one or more, but not all, juices are named and the named juice is not the predominant juice, the name of the beverage must either state that the beverage is flavored with the named juice or declare the amount of the named juice in a 5% range. Examples for a “raspcranberry” beverage that is primarily white grape juice with raspberry and cranberry juices added:

“Raspcranberry Raspberry and Cranberry flavored Juice Drink”
“Raspcranberry Cranberry and Raspberry Juice Beverage
10-15% Cranberry Juice and 3-8% Raspberry Juice”²⁸

The term “from concentrate” or “reconstituted” must be no smaller than one-half the height of the letters in the name of the juice. The 5% range information generally should be not less than one-half the height of the largest type appearing in the common or usual name. In addition it may not be less than 1/16th inch in height on packages with 5 square inches or less area on the principal display panel, and not less than 1/8 inch in height on packages with a principal display panel greater than 5 square inches.

Manufacturers should use easily legible boldface print or type that distinctly contrasts with the other printed or graphic material on the information panel. The type-size for the %-juice label must be not less than the largest type found on the information panel except that used for the brand name, product name, logo, universal product code, or the title phrase “Nutrition Facts.”²⁹

Net Quantity Statement

•21 CFR §101.105

The net quantity of contents (net quantity statement) is the statement on the label which provides the amount of food in the container or package.³⁰ The net quantity statement (net quantity of contents) is placed as a distinct item in the bottom 30 percent of the principal display panel, in lines generally parallel with the base of the container.³¹

Food labels printed may show the net contents in the metric system (grams, kilograms, milliliters, liters). The metric statement may be placed either before or after the U. S. Customary statement, or above or below it.³²

The area of the principal display panel (calculated in square inches or square centimeters) determines the minimum type size that is permitted for the net quantity statement. For the net quantity statements, the minimum type size is the smallest type size that is permitted based on the space available for labeling on the principal display panel.³³ Only the quantity of food in the container or package should be stated in the net quantity statement. Do not include the weight of the container, or wrappers and packing materials. To determine the net weight, subtract the average weight of the empty container, lid and any wrappers and packing materials from the average weight of the container when filled with food.³⁴

²⁸ 21 CFR 102.33(b), 102.33(c), 102.33(d).

²⁹ 21 CFR 101.30(e)(2), 102.5(b)(2), 102.33(d), 102.33(g).

³⁰ 21 CFR 101.105(a).

³¹ 21 CFR 101.105(f).

³² See, 21 CFR § 101.105.

³³ 21 CFR 101.105(h) and (i).

³⁴ 21 CFR 101.105(g).

Manufacturers cannot use qualifying phrases or terms that exaggerate the amount of food.³⁵ For example, a can of tuna may not bear the inscription “4 extremely large ounces”.

Under FDA’s laws and regulations, there is no label approval necessary prior to the food products’ distribution or importation. Questions concerning the labeling of food products may be directed to:

Division of Programs and Enforcement Policy (HFS-155)
Office of Food Labeling
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
200 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20204
Telephone: 1-202-205-5229

Nutritional Labeling

The FDA has adopted rules that implement the provisions of the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990³⁶ (NLEA), which, among other things, require nutrition labeling for most foods and authorize the use of nutrient content claims and appropriate FDA-approved health claims. Note: Meat and poultry products regulated by USDA are not covered by NLEA. However, USDA’s regulations closely parallel FDA’s rules, summarized below.

Applicable Foods

The NLEA regulations mandate nutrition labeling for most foods. In addition, they set up voluntary programs for nutrition information for many raw foods: the 20 most frequently eaten raw fruits, vegetables and fish each, under FDA’s voluntary point-of-purchase nutrition information program, and the 45 best-selling cuts of meat, under USDA’s program.

Although voluntary, FDA’s program for raw produce and fish carries a strong incentive for retailers to participate. The program will remain voluntary only if at least 60 percent of a nationwide sample of retailers continue to provide the necessary information.

Exemptions

Under NLEA, some foods are exempt from nutrition labeling. These include:

- Food served for immediate consumption, such as that served in hospital cafeterias and airplanes, and that sold by food service vendors—for example, mall cookie counters, sidewalk vendors, and vending machines.
- Ready-to-eat food that is not for immediate consumption but is prepared primarily on site—for example, bakery, deli, and candy store items, food shipped in bulk, as long as it is not for sale in that form to consumers, medical foods, such as those used to address the nutritional needs of patients with certain diseases, plain coffee and tea, some spices, and other foods that contain no significant amounts of any nutrients.
- Under 1993 amendments to the NLEA, food produced by small businesses is also exempt. The NLEA amendments provide for a system in which exemptions are based on the number of people a company employs and the number of units within a product line it makes yearly.

³⁵ 21 CFR 101.105(o).

³⁶ 21 USC § 301 et seq.

- Nutrition information about game meats--such as deer, bison, rabbit, quail, wild turkey, and ostrich--is not required on individual packages. Instead, it can be given on counter cards, signs, or other point-of-purchase materials. Because few nutrient data exist for these foods, FDA believes that allowing this option will enable game meat producers to give first priority to collecting appropriate data and make it easier for them to update the information as it becomes available.

How to Make a Complaint

To report problems (including adverse reactions) related to any food except meat and poultry, call the FDA Food and Seafood Information Line at 1-800-FDA-4010 (1-800-332-4010).

If the problem involves meat or poultry, which are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, call the USDA hotline at 1-800-535-4555.

