



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific **Prosperity**

Improving Transparency of Pre-packaged Food Packaging and Labelling Laws, Regulations and Best Practices: Conference and Compendium

APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance

April 2022



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APEC Project: SCSC 7 2019T

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) serve as the backbone of the economy as they account for over 98% of all enterprises in most APEC economies. However, they continue to be confronted with challenges affecting their ability to be part of the global value chains. These obstacles to trade may be in the form of non-tariff measures (NTMs). NTMs are policy measures other than tariffs that can potentially have an economic effect on the international trade in goods. Although many NTMs aim to protect public health or the environment, they may serve as barriers to the smooth flow of goods, therefore, it is important to be familiarized with each member economies' requirements to navigate through these NTMs and prevent unnecessary disruptions in trade.

APEC is in continuous pursuit towards globalizing MSMEs through its various programs/projects such as this conference and compendium. This project aims to build APEC's capacity on product packaging and labelling and increase awareness and understanding of the participants on the latest laws, regulations, standardization activities and best practices pertaining to packaging and labelling.

To fulfill the objectives of this project, a survey was conducted to determine the relevance of the information gathered from the 2015 survey on Pre-Packaged Food Packaging and Labelling. The results of which were presented during the APEC Conference on Pre-packaged Food Packaging and Labelling was held on 17-18 November 2021. The conference consisted of plenary sessions, and virtual exhibitions showcasing the member economies' relevant regulations with regard to food packaging and labelling. As a final output, a compendium of all relevant information gathered during the pre-conference survey and the conference was developed for appreciation and reference of APEC member economies.

While all member economies implement regulatory requirements, the diversity in most of them remains a challenge; and it is because of this factor that the need for APEC to continue to provide a platform to exchange information to enable businesses to be aware of the latest requirements on the topic is highlighted. Amidst the efforts to harmonize, it is to be acknowledged that there are requirements that will remain unique to each economy based on their needs such as language, cultural and traditional; objectives to be pursued such as sustainability, improve recyclability, use of eco-labelling and use of technology for food labelling. This is where the importance of collaboration and international cooperation comes in for stakeholders to find the common ground which can be achieved by encouraging greater APEC participation in the development of international standards that ensure the safety of food packaging.

Recommendations:

- APEC must continue to serve as a forum to exchange information on requirements of sectors of mutual interest to capacitate member economies' relevant sectors including MSMEs and to ensure that information remains relevant
- APEC should continue to provide an interactive forum to promote the results of the survey through the APEC website.
- APEC member economies can explore to translate the information gathered into more effective information material, such as infomercials and handbooks for wider reach.
- APEC member economies are encouraged to harmonize technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, and base them on international standards as stipulated in the WTO-Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) agreement.
- APEC to create and maintain a directory of regulatory agencies where private sectors or economies can direct questions and get correct information regarding their concerns.
- APEC to assist in the promotion of the discussion of the use of technologies in food labelling and use of eco-labels/sustainable packaging and technical infrastructure to support these developments
- APEC to continue to promote the importance of stakeholders' participation in the international standardization process to ensure concerns are considered during the development of international standards.
- Cross-fora collaboration within APEC, and other relevant international organizations such as WTO, ITC, CAC, etc. is encouraged.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

MSMEs are considered to be an integral part of economic development. Only if met with the right tools, then MSMEs can provide mass opportunities and contributions to the region.

MSMEs contribution amount to over 98% of all enterprises in most APEC economies, SMEs as a share of total goods exporters is often much lower, ranging from 55.3% in Chile to 97.5% in the United States (Hredzak 2020). SMEs as a share of total exporters has remained steady over the 5 to 10-year reference period, with only Thailand exhibiting a large increase, rising from 59.6% in 2010 to 71.0% in 2018. In terms of the share of total SMEs that are engaged in goods exporting, it is very low across the APEC region, with typically less than 2% of all SMEs are engaged in goods exporting.

MSMEs continue to be confronted with challenges on several fronts, thus hindering their ability to access regional and global markets, or even be part of global value chains (GVCs). Hredzak identified customs and trade regulations as a large obstacle to exporting of MSMEs. The share of small and medium-sized enterprises that felt these were a major barrier ranges from just 1.4% in People's Republic of China to nearly 40% in Malaysia, with over 20% of SMEs in most APEC economies identifying these as one of the main barriers to trade. Among trade regulations faced by MSME exporters across developing economies are the differing packaging and labelling requirements across regions. Food labelling provides consumers with information on the product, its content, shelf life and traceability. It also differentiates similar products, provides a fair playing field to competitors in the food sector, facilitates commerce through standardization of information, and provides consumers information regarding food safety (such as cooking directions) and health (such as serving size, ingredients, and nutrition facts). The issues to be clarified by this project are the mandatory labels to be affixed/ printed on the package of products as well as its relation to food safety and relevant international standards.

The APEC Survey on Packaging and Labelling Requirements for Pre-packaged Food Products conducted in 2015 provided information on the specific laws and regulations of responding economies which vary in terms of requirements across the region. It may be noted that the respondents have diverse requirements of the information to be indicated in the labels of pre-packaged food products such as the mandatory information on labels, display format, required information on principal display panel, usage of numbers and letters for statements of net quantity (minimum height requirements of letters/numbers) and expression of units of measurements and symbols as well as use of translations for selected information into required (domestic) languages and use of removable labels, among others.

As a follow-up to the survey conducted in 2015, the project has conducted the APEC Survey on Packaging and Labelling Requirements of Pre-packaged Food Products in December 2020-February 2021. The recent survey incorporated new areas of interest with regard to food packaging and labelling such as technological advances in sustainable and green packaging; the use of recycled packaging; digital labelling technologies including QR codes and smart labelling for traceability; and regulations concerning the food information for products offered through e-commerce.

The introduction of these new areas of interest, enables the expansion in the variety of packaging and labelling laws across member economies. Moreover, the data has shown that mandatory and voluntary product labels have changed over the course of 5 years – some member economies requiring more information, while some less than their response to the 2015 survey.

These differences serve as impediments which prevent MSMEs from taking advantage of the potential benefits of freer markets in an increasingly integrated global economy. Furthermore, the pandemic has intensified the need to focus on sustainability and the circular economy, as well as digitalization to reach the global market.

In alignment with one of the priority actions under the APEC Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs, which is to intensify information exchange on food packaging and labelling requirements, and undertake regular stock-take initiatives and capacity building for the compliance of MSMEs, the project entitled “Improving Transparency of Pre-Packaged Food Packaging and Labelling Laws, Regulations and Best Practices: Conference and Compendium” was undertaken. Comprehensive information and knowledge sharing that will be achieved in this project will contribute to trade liberalization and capacity building of businesses, including MSMEs.

B. Objectives

Through this project, the proponent aims to build APEC capacity on product packaging and labelling and increase awareness and understanding of the participants on the latest laws, regulations, standardization activities and best practices pertaining to packaging.

Particularly, the project aims to:

1. Inform and provide an interactive forum for economies to share their laws and regulations on packaging and labelling;
2. Provide a platform for economies to showcase the latest trends and developments on packaging and labelling technologies, including sustainable and eco-friendly packaging and labelling options (such as smart labels), for pre-packaged food;
3. Inform APEC economies about the international standards and international standardization activities relating to packaging and labelling
4. Encourage greater APEC participation in the development of international standards that ensure the safety of food packaging

C. Methodology

To fulfill the objectives of this project, the APEC Conference on Pre-packaged Food Packaging and Labelling was held on 17-18 November 2021 which consisted of plenary sessions and virtual exhibitions showcasing the member economies' relevant regulations with regard to food packaging and labelling. The Philippines circulated invitations and the draft program to member economies, Philippine agencies and international organizations (e.g., WTO/ITC, WPO, and Codex Alimentarius). The final event details were circulated once the Landing Page was up, approximately a month prior to the event.

As part of the project, a compendium of all the packaging and labelling regulations of the member economies was produced which included the results from the APEC Survey on Packaging and Labelling Requirements of Pre-packaged Food Products that was conducted in December 2020-February 2021 as an update to the 2015 survey. The compendium will serve as a stakeholders' reference guide to the latest packaging and labelling laws and requirements across the APEC region. It may also serve as a reference to future work that the APEC or other non-APEC fora will conduct. From the survey results and the proceedings from the conference, recommendations and the final way forward shall be raised. Afterwards, discussions among member economies shall proceed to propose possible actions.

D. Glossary

Codex Alimentarius – The Codex Alimentarius is a collection of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines, and other recommendations relating to food, food production, food labelling, and food safety.

Compendium – A compendium is a concise collection of information pertaining to a body of knowledge and may summarize a larger work.

Food - Food is any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended for human consumption, and includes drinks, chewing gums and any substance which has been used in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of “food” but does not include cosmetics or tobacco or substances, used only as drugs.

Free Trade Agreement – A free trade agreement or treaty is an agreement according to international law to form a free-trade area between the cooperating states.

Global Value Chains – The concepts of a global value chain and global supply chain refer to the people, roles and activities involved in the production of goods and services and their supply, distribution, and post-sales activities when those activities must be coordinated across geographies.

Label - A label is any tag, brand, mark, pictorial or descriptive matter, written, printed, stenciled, marked, embossed, impressed on, or attached to, a container of food.

Labelling - This includes any written, printed or graphic matter that is present on the label, accompanies the food or

displayed near the food, including that for the purpose of promoting its sale or disposal.

Mandatory labelling requirements – Labelling requirements that must be included by law

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise – any business activity or enterprise engaged in industry, agri-business and/or services that has: an asset size (less land) of up to PhP100 million; and an employment size with less than 200 employees.

Pre-packaged - This means packaged or made up in advance in a container labeled and ready for sale to the consumers and for catering purposes.

Regulations – a rule or directive made and maintained by an authority

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary – Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures are quarantine and biosecurity measures which are applied to protect human, animal or plant life or health from risks arising from the introduction, establishment and spread of pests and diseases and from risks arising from additives, toxins and contaminants in food and feed.

Technical Barriers to Trade – a category of non-tariff barriers to trade, are the widely divergent measures that countries use to regulate markets, protect their consumers, or preserve their natural resources, but they also can be used to discriminate against imports in order to protect domestic industries.

Voluntary labelling requirements – This is information that the manufacturer includes that it may be useful for the consumer such as health and therapeutic claims, etc.

E. Acronyms List

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
BPS	Bureau of Philippine Standards
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCCF	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food
CCFL	Codex Committee on Food Labelling
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GVC	Global Value Chain
ITC	International Trade Centre
SCSC	Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
WPO	World Packaging Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

II. RESULTS OF PRE-CONFERENCE SURVEY

A. Respondents

Thirteen economies - representing Asia (People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), Oceania (Australia and Papua New Guinea) and the Americas (Chile, Mexico, Peru and The United States) responded to the survey.



Figure 1. APEC Member Economies and their corresponding year of accession

B. Survey Methodology

The 2020 survey aims to update information gathered in 2015 to ensure that information provided to stakeholders, in particular the MSMEs which have limited resources to navigate regulatory requirements, are relevant. The survey also aims to elaborate on some questions and gather information on some requirements which were not captured by the 2015 survey. The questions are open and closed questions.

It was distributed through the member economies' contact points in the SCSC. SCSC members were advised to closely coordinate with the competent authorities as the project overseer will only accept one response from each economy. The member economies were encouraged to complete the survey online and to submit supplemental information if it warrants.

The Survey was composed of three (3) major sections: (1) Labelling Requirements, (2) Packaging Requirements and (3) Assistance to Business. Copy of survey questions is provided in Appendix B.

The survey ran from December 2020 to February 2021.

C. Responses from APEC Member Economies

This section provides a summary of responses on mandatory requirements for packaging and labelling specifications in APEC member economies for the recent 2020 survey.

PART 1: EXISTING LAWS/REGULATIONS

This section provides a summary of responses on existing laws/regulations in APEC member economies, along with relevant links and their corresponding implementing agencies.

Question 1: Are there existing laws/regulations in your economy on labelling requirements for pre-packaged food products?

All respondents answered that they have specific laws/regulations pertaining to packaging and labelling requirements for pre-packaged food products, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Information on Laws/Regulations, Relevant Links and Implementing Agencies

AUSTRALIA
<p>Implementing Agencies</p> <p>Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is the statutory agency responsible for developing and maintaining the standards in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (Code).</p> <p>Compliance and enforcement matters relating to the standards in the Code are managed by the Australian state and territory enforcement agencies, and in relation to imports and exports, by the Department of Agriculture.</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links</p> <p>Labelling and information requirements are contained in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. These requirements apply to food that is sold, processed or handled for sale in Australia, or imported into Australia. https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>National Measurement Act 1960 https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C00085/Download</p> <p>National Trade Measurement Regulations 2009 https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019C00581/Download</p> <p>The Australian Consumer Law or ACL (Schedule 2 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth)) and the Country of Origin Food Labelling Information Standard 2016 (the Standard) govern country of origin labelling for food products in Australia.</p> <p>Under the ACL, certain food products offered or suitable for retail sale are required to display country of origin information. The labelling requirements under the Standard vary for a food item depending on whether it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a priority or non-priority food • was grown, produced, made or packed in Australia or another country. <p>In accordance with section 29(1)(k) of the ACL, all businesses, whether they are legally required or choose to display country of origin labelling, are prohibited from making false or misleading representations or engaging in misleading or deceptive conduct about the origin of goods (both food and non-food).</p> <p>More information about the required labels for certain foods set out under the Standard, and other rules that businesses must follow when making country of origin claims about food, is available on the ACCC website.</p>
CHILE
<p>Implementing Agency</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links</p> <p>Reglamento Sanitario de los Alimentos https://dipol.minsal.cl/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/RSA-DECRETO_977-96-actualizado-a-noviembre-2019.pdf</p> <p>Resolución Exenta N°427/10 Define lista de alérgenos alimentarios que deben rotularse conforme al artículo 107 letra h del Reglamento Sanitario de los Alimentos http://documentos.minsal.cl/alfresco/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/2dfbc4db-619a-4350-a305-67bfb30c46b0/RESOLUCION_427_10.doc</p> <p>Resolución 817 exenta complementa resolución n° 427 exenta, de 2010, que define lista de alérgenos alimentarios que deben rotularse conforme al artículo 107 letra h) del reglamento sanitario de los alimentos https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1047961</p> <p>Norma técnica n° 191 sobre directrices nutricionales para declarar propiedades saludables de los alimentos https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1105664&idParte=0&idVersion=</p> <p>Modifica resolución n° 860 exenta, de 2017, del ministerio de salud, que aprueba norma técnica n° 191 sobre directrices nutricionales para declarar propiedades saludables de los alimentos https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1113511&idParte=9874214</p> <p>Ley 20606 sobre composición nutricional de los alimentos y su publicidad https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1041570</p> <p>LEY 21179 Firma electrónica establece normas sobre elaboración, denominación y etiquetado de productos lácteos o derivados de</p>

<p>la leche https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1138206</p> <p>Ley 20089 crea sistema nacional de certificacion de productos organicos agricolas https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=246460</p>
<p>PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA</p> <p>Implementing Agency</p> <p>State Administration for Market Regulation</p> <p>National Health Commission</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links</p> <p>Food Safety Law http://gkml.samr.gov.cn/nsjg/zfjcj/202006/t20200612_316982.html</p> <p>Implementation Rule on Food Safety Law http://gkml.samr.gov.cn/nsjg/spxsts/202006/t20200628_317463.html</p> <p>GB 28050-2011 Food Safety National Standard Pre-packaged Food Nutrition Labelling Principles http://www.nhc.gov.cn/ewebeditor/uploadfile/2013/06/20130605104041625.pdf</p> <p>GB 7718-2011 Food Safety National Standard Pre-packaged food labelling principles http://www.nhc.gov.cn/wjw/aqbz/201106/53c53d99b71940c7a74830f86b46f8db/files/e84256474d1445919246b4a41a87f172.pdf</p>
<p>INDONESIA</p> <p>Implementing Agency</p> <p>Indonesian Food and Drug Administration</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links</p> <p>Law no. 18 year 2012 in Food Government Regulation</p> <p>No. 69/1999 on Food Label and Advertising</p> <p>Indonesian FDA Regulation no.31 year 2018</p> <p>Indonesian FDA Regulation no.22 year 2019</p>
<p>JAPAN</p> <p>Implementing Agency</p> <p>Consumer Affairs Agency</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links</p> <p>Food Labelling Act http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?id=3586&vm=04&re=01</p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Implementing Agency</p> <p>Food Safety and Quality Division, Ministry of Health, Malaysia</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links</p> <p>Food Act 1983 http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v6/xs/page.php?id=323</p> <p>Food Regulation 1985 http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v6/xs/page.php?id=72</p> <p>Food Irradiation Regulations 2011 http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v6/xs/page.php?id=74</p>
<p>MEXICO</p> <p>Implementing Agency</p> <p>Dirección General De Normas De La Secretaría De Economía Y Comisión Federal Para La Protección Contra Riesgos Sanitarios (COFEPRIS)</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links</p> <p>Ley General de Salud http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/142_041220.pdf</p> <p>Reglamento de la ley general de salud en materia de control sanitario de actividades, establecimientos, productos y servicios http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/regley/Reg_LGS_MCSAEPS_281204.pdf</p> <p>Ley de infraestructura de la calidad http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/LICal_010720.pdf</p>

<p>Norma oficial mexicana nom-051-scfi/ssa1-2010. Última modificación https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5590668&fecha=27/03/2020</p> <p>Texto Original https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5137518&fecha=05/04/2010</p>
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
<p>Implementing Agency National Department of Health</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links Food Sanitation Regulation 2007, Food Sanitation Act 1991 https://www.complianceandrisk.com/regulations/papua-new-guinea-food-sanitation-regulation-2007-33666/ https://www.google.com/search?q=food+sanitation+act+1991+png&oq=foo&aqs=chrome..69i59l2j0i67i433j69i57j0i67i395j69i61j69i60j69i61.2993j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8</p>
PERU
<p>Implementing Agency General Directorate of Environmental Health of Food Safety DIGESA of Agency to protect Consumer INDECOPI - Presidency of the Council of Ministers</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links According to Codex Alimentarius and the national regulations of food safety.</p>
THE PHILIPPINES
<p>Implementing Agency Food and Drug Administration (FDA)</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER (AO) 2014-0030 https://ww2.fda.gov.ph/attachments/article/194724/AO2014-0030%20-%20Revised%20Rules%20and%20Regulation%20Governing%20of%20Prepackaged%20Food%20Product</p> <p>DOH AO No. 2014-0030 dated Sept. 08, 2014 Revised Rules And Regulations Governing The Labelling of Prepackaged Food Products Further Amending Certain Provisions of Administrative Order No. 88-B s. 1984 or the "Rules and Regulations Governing the Labelling of Prepackaged Food Products Distributed in the Philippines," and For Other Purposes (ww2.fda.gov.ph)</p>
SINGAPORE
<p>Implementing Agency Singapore Food Agency</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links Pre-packaged food products for sale in Singapore are required to meet the general labelling requirements, as well as the additional labelling requirements such as date marking, nutrition information panel and warning statements, as stipulated under the Singapore Food Regulations. https://www.sfa.gov.sg/legislation?type=sale-of-food-act-chapter-283&page=1</p>
THAILAND
<p>Implementing Agency Food and Drug Administration</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links The Notification of Ministry of Public Health No. 367 B.E. 2557, No3 383 B.E. 2560, No. 401 B.E. 2562 and No. 410 B.E. 2562 http://food.fda.moph.go.th/law/TH/pages/foodlabel.html</p>
THE UNITED STATES
<p>Implementing Agency FSIS: The Food Safety and Inspection Service</p> <p>U.S. Food & Drug Administration</p> <p>Federal Trade Commission</p>
<p>Laws and Relevant Links Federal Meat Inspection Act Poultry Products Inspection Act Egg Products Inspection Act Agricultural Marketing Act. https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/13/2020-17088/food-labelling-gluten-free-labelling-of-fermented-or-hydrolyzed-foods</p> <p>Meat Labelling Regulations: 9 CFR 317 Poultry Labelling Regulations: 9 CFR 381, Subpart N Egg Product Labelling Regulations: 9 CFR 590(410) https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/STATUTE-94/STATUTE-94-Pg1190</p>
<p>Relevant Laws (FDA)</p>

- Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act –
general link: 21 U.S.C. 9 - FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT - Content Details - USCODE-2018-title21-chap9 (govinfo.gov)
 - Misbranding: U.S.C. Title 21 - FOOD AND DRUGS (govinfo.gov)
 - Fair Packaging and Labelling Act: U.S.C. Title 15 - COMMERCE AND TRADE (govinfo.gov)
 - Food Allergen Labelling Consumer Protection Act: Food Allergen Labelling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004 (FALCPA)FDA
 - Food Labelling: Gluten-Free Labelling of Foods Final Rule (August 5, 2013)
 - Food Labelling: Gluten-Free Labelling of Fermented or Hydrolyzed Foods (August 13, 2020)
 - Infant Formula Act of 1980
- <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-id.x?gp=&SID=edba68f4d0c1473238520448156c4e92&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title21/21chapterI.tpl>

Relevant FDA Regulations

- Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1 and 101, Food Labelling Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFR)
- Infant formula Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 105-107

PART 2: INFORMATION ON PACKAGING AND LABELLING REQUIREMENTS, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

This part focuses on different information on packaging and labelling requirements such as mandatory information on labels, health claims, gene editing, photographs and graphic representation, food contact packaging, font and font size, and language translation, among others.

Question 2: Which of the following information are required to be placed on the package (label or otherwise) of pre-packaged products in your economy?

The question seeks to gather information on the mandatory label requirements of member economies. Interestingly, only two out of the forty plus elements in the survey are being required across the thirteen responding economies, as shown in Fig. 2. These are as follows:

- Product Name
- Name of Manufacturer/Packer/Distributor/Importer/Exporter/Vendor/Trader, Address and Contact Details.
- Net content
- Nutrition Labelling

For a summary of responses from each member economy, refer to Appendix C, Table 1.

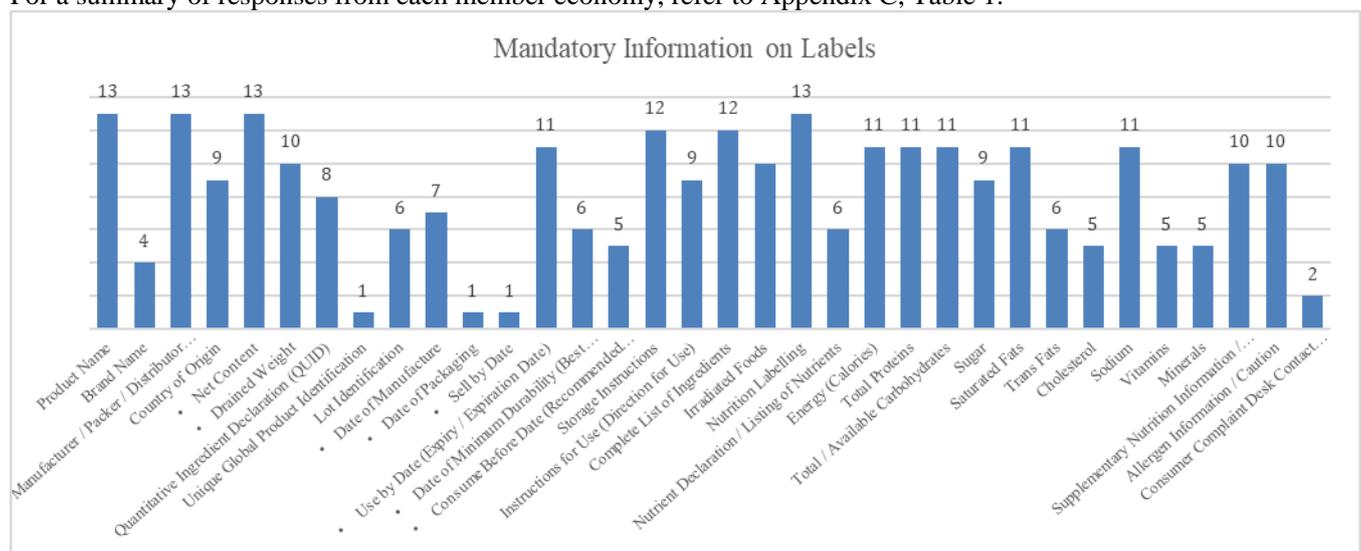


Figure 2. Number of APEC Member Economies requiring the following mandatory information on labels.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

AUSTRALIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard 1.5.2-Food produced using gene technology sets out requirements for labelling of food as 'genetically modified', if it contains novel DNA or novel protein, or has characteristics that differ from the non-GM counterpart food. -
CHILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stamps "High in": If the products exceed the values for energy, sodium, sugar and fats indicated in article 120 bis of the Food Sanitary Regime (Decree 977/96), they must label a black stamp with the legend "High in" plus the corresponding critical nutrient. https://dipol.minsal.cl/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/RSA-DECRETO_977-96-actualizado-a-noviembre-2019.pdf <p>Labelling of milk and milk products: In the milk and milk products, the real name and nature of the milk must be labeled, according to article 105 bis of Law 21179, in addition to the name of the species of origin of the milk in case of not be cow, N/A</p>
INDONESIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Industry must provide information on the label for GMO food, while for organic and environmental is voluntary
JAPAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Such Foods that fall under any of the following categories must have required labeling information specified separately; foods containing aspartame, foods containing designated ingredient, Foods for Specified Health Uses, Foods with Function Claims, Genetically Modified Foods, etc.
MALAYSIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no amendment to the regulations as submitted through survey on 2015 (Religious, GMO & Organic)
MEXICO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CONTRASEÑA OFICIAL (NOM's logo)
PERU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Label alert for high levels of sodium, sugar and trans fat
THE PHILIPPINES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alcohol content in % or proof of units for alcoholic beverages 2. English or Filipino or a combination of both. 3. Labelling of irradiated foods 4. Additional information when mandated in a Food Safety standard or any other FDA regulation of as deemed necessary to assure safety of use 5. Other declarations must be substantiated such as Halal, Kosher, Organic, etc. <p>For export products, language of the importing country may be used</p>
SINGAPORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The use of "organic" claim is voluntary. Regulation 9B(5) of the Singapore Food Regulations states that a label must not include the word "organic", or any word of the same significance, in relation to food unless the food is certified as organic under an inspection and certification system — (a) that complies with section 6.3 of the Codex Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods, GL 32-1999; or (b) that substantially complies with the guidelines mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) and is acceptable to the Director-General as being a suitable system for the certification of organic food.
THAILAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labelling requirements for Food Obtained Through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification / Genetic Engineering according to the Notification of Ministry of Public Health No. 251 B.E. 2545 as follows: - The statement of "Genetically Modified" in conjunction with the name of food for food which contains only one main ingredient such as "Genetically Modified Corn", "Tofu produced from Genetically Modified Soybean"
THE UNITED STATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact Details of Manufacturer/Packer/Distributor/Importer/Exporter/Vendor/Trader - U.S. domestic contact required for dietary supplement product labels for receipt of serious adverse event reports - Country of Origin - Not a FDA Requirement - Required by other agencies - Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and USDA? - Shelf Life / Date of Marking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o USDA Inspection Legend and Establishment Number o Country of origin for imported product only o Date of packaging for poultry only - For Date Marking format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Low Acid Canned Food/Acidified Foods: "The required identification shall identify in code the establishment where packed, the product contained therein, the year packed, the day packed, and the period during which packed." (21 CFR 113.60(c) and 21 CFR 114.80(b)) • For infant formula: "Use by ____" date, the blank to be filled in with the month and year selected by the manufacturer, packer, or distributor of the infant formula on the basis of tests or other information showing that the infant formula, until that date, under the conditions of handling, storage, preparation, and use prescribed by label directions, will: (1) when consumed, contain not less than the quantity of each nutrient, as set forth on its label; and (2) otherwise be of an acceptable quality (e.g., pass through an ordinary bottle nipple).

- On Nutrition labelling, some additional nutrients not listed above are designated in the regulations as “voluntary” unless certain claims are made. If claims are made about certain nutrients these “voluntary” additional nutrients must be declared in the Nutrition Facts Label. For example, if claims are made about cholesterol or fatty acids, polyunsaturated fat and monounsaturated fat must be declared in the Nutrition Facts Label. See 21 CFR 101.9(c) for requirements for “voluntary” nutrients.
- Nutrition labeling exemptions are provided under the Small Business Nutrition Labeling Exemption or low-volume, and some other circumstances provided no claims are made. See 21 CFR 101.9(j) for exemptions: https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e4597fb451d5bbd9b3cc8b94efee993e&mc=true&node=se21.2.101_19&rgn=div8.
- See infant formula regulations in 21 CFR Part 107 for nutrients required on infant formula labels.
- Dietary ingredients for which FDA has not established RDI's or DRV's and that are not subject to regulation under 21 CFR 101.36(b)(2) must be declared by their common or usual name when they are present in a dietary supplement [21 CFR 101.36(b)(3) and 101.4].

Question 3: Which of the following information are placed on the principal display panel of the products?

The question seeks to gather information on the mandatory principal display panel label requirements of member economies. As shown in Fig. 3, only six (6) out of the forty plus elements in the survey are no longer required on the mandatory principal display panel label across the thirteen responding economies. These are as follows:

- Country of Origin
- Unique Global Product Identification
- Lot Identification
- Storage Instructions
- Instructions for Use (Directions for Use)
- Supplementary Nutrition Information / Supplement Facts / Nutrition Facts

For a summary of responses from each member economy, refer to Appendix C, Table 2.

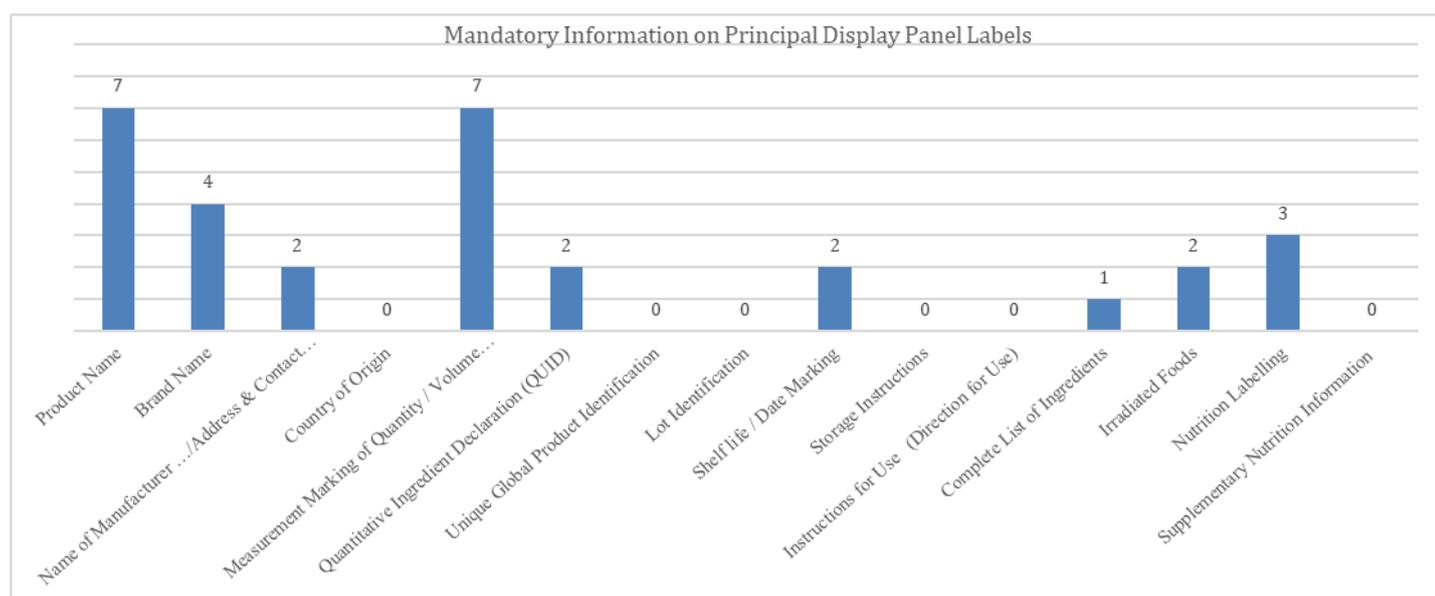


Figure 3. Number of APEC Member Economies requiring the following mandatory information on principal display panel labels.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

AUSTRALIA

- There are no requirements for a principal display panel in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

CHILE	- Milk and milk products: Denomination and nature of the milk, suggested article 105 bis of law 21179, name of the species of origin of the milk if it is not cow, name and country of milking of the milks, name of the dairy product, name and flag of milking country of used milks, type of milks used, indication of milk drink (as defined in the third paragraph of article 105 quinquies of law 21179).
INDONESIA	- Halal, product registration approval
JAPAN	- Any of food information is not required to be displayed on the principal display.
MALAYSIA	- Labelling of added alcohol & beef, pork or lard; There is certain information that required on principal display panel for certain food commodities such as alcoholic beverage and infant formula. Link : http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v6/xs/page.php?id=72
MEXICO	- FRONT OF PACKAGE NUTRITION LABEL
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	- There is no clear indication unless permitted in a prescribed standard
PERU	- An octogonal figure is located in the frontal panel of label
SINGAPORE	- The Singapore Food Regulations do not specify the placement of labelling information on the food packaging. However, under Regulation 184D(3)(c) of the Singapore Food Regulations, for Nutri-Grade beverages that are labelled with the Nutri-Grade mark, the Nutri-Grade mark must be labelled on the front-of-pack surface of the package.
THAILAND	- GDA (Guideline Daily Amount) - There are no requirement regarding what information to be placed on the principal display panel. However, for name of food, net content and date marking are emphasis required to be in prominent position.
THE UNITED STATES	- These are placed on the principal display panel of the products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Net Quantity (weight or contents) o USDA Inspection Legend and Establishment Number o Handling statement (when required) - Dietary supplements must be identified by the term "dietary supplement" as a part of the statement of identity [21 CFR 101.3(g)]. - Statement of identity and net quantity of contents statement are required to be on the principal display panel.

Question 4: *Is there any additional labelling information for sweetened beverages in powder form?*

The question seeks to gather information on the additional labelling requirements of member economies for sweetened beverages in powder form. Seven (7) economies no longer require additional labelling – Australia, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Japan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and The United States. Table 2 provides the summary of responses from each member economy.

Table 2. Additional Labelling Information for Sweetened Beverages in Powder Form

ECONOMIES	<i>Are there any additional labelling information required for sweetened beverages in powder form?</i>
AUSTRALIA	No
CHILE	No
PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	No
INDONESIA	For food with sweetener must include warning: “Contains artificial sweeteners, it should not be consumed by children under 5 years old, pregnant women, and breast-feeding mothers”
JAPAN	No
MALAYSIA	Yes. Directions for its preparations.
MEXICO	No
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	No

PERU	Just the octogonal figure "high in sugar"
THE PHILIPPINES	<p>For sweetened beverages in powder form, indicate a legible statement on the number of liters per pack size or store keeping unit (SKU) (net weight/volume)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines' Food and Drug Administration has issued the updated Addendum to Administrative Order No. 2014-0030: Guidelines on Additional Mandatory Label Information on Sweetened Beverages Based on R.A. 10963. Type of sweetener used must be indicated on the label and must be compliant with the mandatory declaration of complete list of ingredients under item no. 3 of VI-A Mandatory Label Information. Sweetened Beverages in powder form must indicate a legible statement on the number of liters per pack size or store keeping unit (SKU) (net weight volume). All sweetened beverages with existing approved Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) must be allowed to use provisional sticker on the label for the total number of liters per pack (net weight/volume) until 01 December 2018. <p>https://ww2.fda.gov.ph/attachments/article/525737/Addendum%20of%20AO2014-003.pdf</p>
SINGAPORE	<p>Yes. Under Regulations 184C and 184D of the Singapore Food Regulations, Nutri-Grade beverages that are powders or concentrates, meant to be reconstituted or diluted with fluids before consumption as a beverage, and are intended for sale by retail in Singapore, must be labelled with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A nutrition information panel, which specifies the energy value, the amounts of protein, carbohydrate, sugar, fat and saturated fat in the Nutri-Grade beverage; The manufacturer's instructions on how to prepare the Nutri-Grade beverage; and If the Nutri-Grade beverage's grade is "C" or "D", the Nutri-Grade mark on the front-of-pack of the package. <p>Labelling of the Nutri-Grade mark is optional for Nutri-Grade beverages whose grade is "A" or "B".</p>
THAILAND	This type of food among others, is required to display front of pack labelling
THE UNITED STATES	No

Question 5: Are health claims or therapeutic claims allowed to be put in the label of food / dietary supplement?

The question seeks to gather information on the additional labelling requirements of member economies for sweetened beverages in powder form. Four (4) economies – Australia, Chile, Indonesia and Japan allow both health claims or therapeutic claims to be put in the label of food / dietary supplement. Singapore and Thailand only allow health claims. Table 3 shows the economies' responses on health claims or therapeutic claims on labels of food/dietary supplement.

Table 3. Health Claims or Therapeutic Claims on labels of food / dietary supplement

ECONOMIES	<i>Are health claims or therapeutic claims allowed to be put in the label of food / dietary supplement?</i>
AUSTRALIA	Yes
CHILE	Yes
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	No
INDONESIA	Yes
JAPAN	Yes
MALAYSIA	No
MEXICO	No
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	No
PERU	No
THE PHILIPPINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health claims or therapeutic claims is NOT ALLOWED to be put in the label of food /

	<p>dietary supplement. As per Bureau Circular no.2 s.1999, it is mandatory to reflect “NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS” in the labelling materials of all food / dietary supplement products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was dropped in November 2014 by Department of Health. Instead, all food and dietary supplement products sold in the market should strictly carry on their labels the phrase “Mahalagang paalala: Ang (name of product) ay hindi gamot at hindi dapat gamiting panggamot sa anumang uri ng sakit (Important reminder: This is not a medicinal drug and should not be used to treat the symptoms of any disease).” • The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has directed all food and dietary supplement manufacturers, distributors and advertisers, to remove the phrase, “No Approved Therapeutic Claim” from all product labels and advertisements and replace the phrase with a standard message in Filipino language, “Mahalagang Paalala: Ang (Name of Product) ay Hindi Gamot at Hindi Dapat Gamiting Panggamot sa Anumang Uri ng Sakit. (Important reminder: This is not a medicinal drug and should not be used to treat the symptoms of any disease).” This message informs the public that the product is not a medicinal drug and should not be used to treat symptoms of any disease. The FDA’s reiteration of this requirement is in accordance with the decision of the Court of Appeals on 28 November 2014, which upheld the DOH-FDA Administrative Order 2010-0008 <p>https://www2.fda.gov.ph/attachments/article/15831/2010-0008-%20Change%20in%20the%20Use%20of%20the%20Phrase%20No%20Approved%20Therapeutic%20Claim%20in%20All%20Advertisement.pdf</p>
SINGAPORE	Health claims, which includes nutrient function claims, other function claims and specific reduction of disease risk claims are allowed. However, the use of therapeutic claims is not allowed for use on food products.
THAILAND	Only Health Claims
THE UNITED STATES	<p>For health claims, see Label Claims for Conventional Foods and Dietary Supplements FDA (https://www.fda.gov/food/food-labelling-nutrition/label-claims-conventional-foods-and-dietary-supplements). Note: Health claims based on authoritative statements are not permitted on dietary supplements.</p> <p>Also see 21 CFR 101.14, 21 CFR Part 101, Subpart E (21 CFR 101.70 – 83).</p> <p>A statement for a dietary supplement may be made if the statement claims a benefit related to a classical nutrient deficiency disease and discloses the prevalence of such disease in the United States, describes the role of a nutrient or dietary ingredient intended to affect the structure or function in humans, characterizes the documented mechanism by which a nutrient or dietary ingredient acts to maintain such structure or function, or describes general well-being from consumption of a nutrient or dietary ingredient, the manufacturer of the dietary supplement has substantiation that such statement is truthful and not misleading, and the statement is placed with the required disclaimer [21 U.S.C. 403(r)(6) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act].</p>

Question 6: Are there existing laws/regulations in your economy on labelling requirements for gene editing?

The question seeks to gather information on mandatory labels regarding gene editing. As seen on Fig. 4, four (4) economies – People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have existing laws /regulations on labelling requirements for gene editing. Australia’s laws/regulations on labelling requirements for gene editing is still under review.

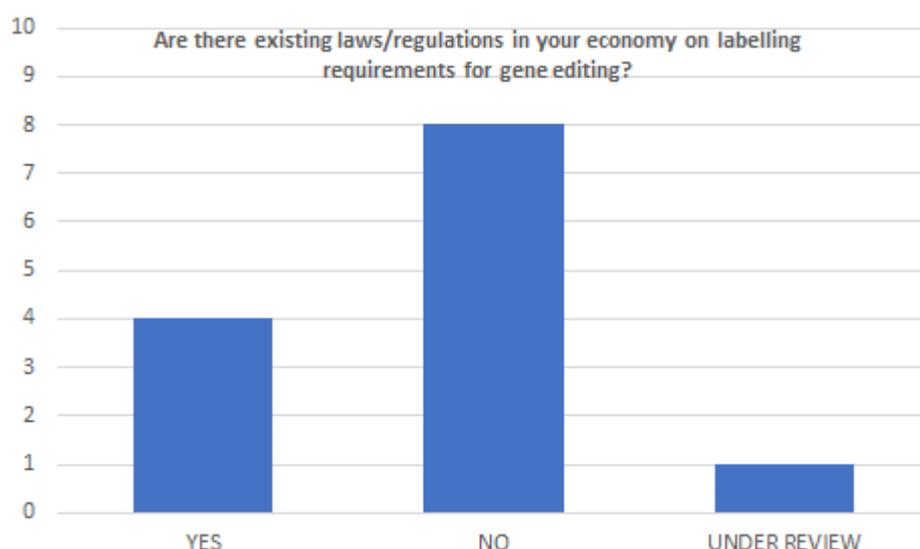


Figure 4. Responses of APEC Member Economies to question 6. People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand answer yes; while Australia is still in the process of reviewing

Question 7: *Is there a specification on the use of photographs and graphic representations?*

As seen on Fig. 5, five (5) economies – People’s Republic of China, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and The United States have no specifications on the use of photographs and graphic representations, while the rest have. Table 4 shows the additional information provided by member economies who answered yes.

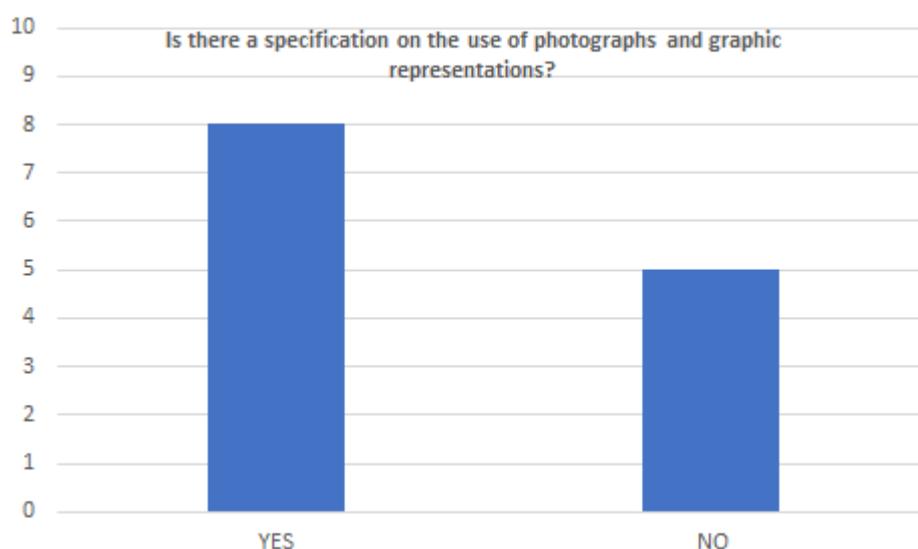


Figure 5. Responses of APEC Member Economies to question 7. People’s Republic of China, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and The United States answered NO, while the rest answered YES.

Table 4. Additional information on the use of photographs and graphic representations

ECONOMIES	<i>Is there a specification on the use of photographs and graphic representations?</i>
AUSTRALIA	The required measurement marking must be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> close to any name or brand of the product to which it relates; marked to be read in the same direction as any name or brand of the product to which it relates; at least 2 mm from the limits of the package; separated by at least 2 mm in all directions from other graphic matter or copy; in a form in which units of measurement under the metric system are ordinarily written in the English

	language.
CHILE	Labelling and advertising of any kind must not contain words, illustrations and / or other graphic representations that may lead to misunderstandings, deception or falsehoods, or that in any way are liable to create an erroneous impression regarding the nature, composition or quality of the product.
INDONESIA	Food product with raw material photographs (ex: fruits, meat etc.) must provide the percentage of raw material in ingredient
MEXICO	LEY FEDERAL DE PROTECCIÓN AL CONSUMIDOR http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/113_261219.pdf
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Refer to section 14, Form and manner of labelling, subsection 3 https://www.complianceandrisk.com/regulations/papua-new-guinea-food-sanitation-regulation-2007-33666/ https://www.google.com/search?q=food+sanitation+act+1991+png&oq=foo&aqs=chrome.1.69i59l2j0i67i433j69i57j0i67i395j69i61j69i60j69i61.2993j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
PERU	Just for foods product for infants and young children according to Codex.
THE PHILIPPINES	Below are stated in the AO 201-0030, Section VII, Letter N <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Photographs of fruits, vegetables, poultry, fish, meat or eggs whether fresh or cooked, whole or sliced, shall not appear on the label unless the product contains such materials or substances naturally derived from them. If flavoring substances have been added to boost or reinforce the natural flavor of a given material, the words “Flavor Added” or any statement that effect shall appear conspicuously and in close proximity to the photograph; b) Graphic representations used to depict the above-mentioned materials (fruits, vegetables, etc.) are acceptable provided these do not vividly illustrate the actual appearance of such materials c) Picture sf food preparations or dishes may appear on the labels of products like sauce mixes or similar food products that are used as ingredients for the preparation of such food/dishes provided the statement “Serving Suggestion” or any other statement of similar importance appear with the picture – https://ww2.fda.gov.ph/attachments/article/194724/AO2014-0030%20-%20Revised%20Rules%20and%20Regulation%20Governing%20of%20Prepackaged%20Food%20Product
SINGAPORE	Under Regulation 9B (3) of the Singapore Food Regulations, a recipe involving the use of any food or any suggestion or pictorial illustration on how to serve the food must not be included on any label unless the recipe, suggestion or pictorial illustration is immediately preceded or followed or otherwise closely accompanied by the expression “Recipe” or “Serving Suggestion”, as the case may be, in printed letters of a minimum of 1.5 mm in height.

Question 8: What information can be put voluntarily on the label if it meets certain criteria?

The question seeks to gather what information can be put voluntarily on the labels if it meets certain criteria. Responses varied across the responding economies. The summary information on the responses is shown in Table 5 – Information that can be put Voluntarily on the label if it meets certain criteria.

Table 5. Information that can be put Voluntarily on the Label if it Meets Certain Criteria

ECONOMIES	<i>What information can be put voluntarily on the label if it meets certain criteria?</i>
AUSTRALIA	Anything provided that does not directly or indirectly relates to, or qualifies, a measurement marked on the package.
CHILE	Nutritional claims, Healthy claims, Supplemental nutritional information
PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	Production batch, Direction for Use, Allergen Information/caution
INDONESIA	FOP
JAPAN	Description to identify it as Organic Plants, Organic Livestock and Organic Processed Foods, Nutrient content claims
MALAYSIA	Declaration of nutrient claim including nutrient content claim, Nutrient comparative claim and Nutrient function claim
MEXICO	Professional association recommendations, Claim "este producto no contiene sellos ni leyendas“, Nutrition and health claims
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Not clear in this regulation
PERU	Advertising above the consumption of alcoholic beverage
THE PHILIPPINES	1. Logos of HACCP, Organic, HALAL

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Consumer complaint desk contact information 3. Nutrient Content Claims (E.g. Fortified with Vitamins A, High Source of Fiber) 4. Bar Codes or QR Codes 5. Diamond Sankap Pinoy Seal / Saktong Iodine sa Asin Seal <p>In the Philippines, there is no mandatory nutrition-labelling requirement for foods. However, several food manufacturers, especially the multinationals voluntarily, include nutrition information on their food products.</p>
SINGAPORE	Nutrition claims; Health claims; Claims to suggest that the food is “organic”
THAILAND	Gluten Free (according to Notification of Ministry of Public Health No. 384 B.E. 2560)
THE UNITED STATES	<p>Claims may be voluntarily placed on the label, if they meet certain criteria. Examples include “organic,” “healthy,” and animal-raising claims. (see FSIS Claims Guidance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Gluten Free” • Nutrient content claims, such as “low fat” • “Fresh”

Questions 9-11 seek to gather information on the specific regulation that requires compliance to certain specifications.

Question 9: *Is there a specification on the minimum height requirements of numbers and letters for labelling information in relation to the area of principal display panel?*

As seen on Fig. 6, three (3) economies – Chile, Japan and Peru have no specification on the minimum height requirements of numbers and letters for labelling in relation to the area of principal display panel, while the rest have. Additional information are shown on Table 6.

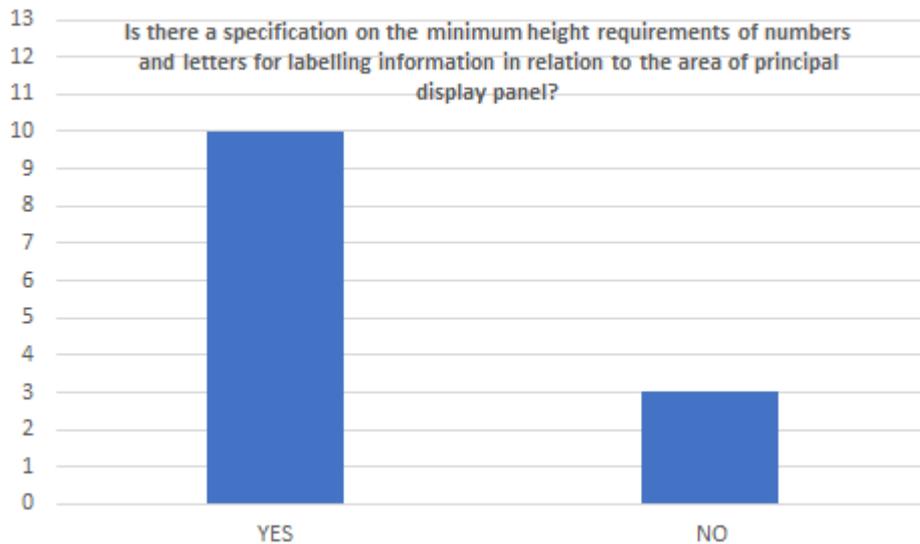


Figure 6. Responses of APEC Member Economies to question 9. Chile, Japan, and Peru answered NO, while the rest answered YES.

Table 6. Additional information on minimum height requirements

<p>THE PHILIPPINES</p> <p>For Food/Dietary Supplement, the phrase “NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS” should be all capital letters, 14 font size, Arial and Bold font style</p> <p>https://ww2.fda.gov.ph/index.php/issuances-2/food-laws-and-regulations-pertaining-to-all-regulated-food-products-and-supplements/food-fda-circular/15866-bureau-circular-no-02-s-1999</p> <p>Please refer to the labelling guidelines of Philippine FDA https://www.fda.gov/files/food/published/Food-Labelling-Guide-%28PDF%29.pdf</p>
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But it should be in a size reasonably related to the biggest printed matter on such panel e.g. trade mark or brand name

SINGAPORE

Singapore does not have specific labelling requirements for the principal display panel. However, Regulation 5(6) of the Singapore Food Regulations requires the following information to be in printed letters not less than 1.5mm in height.

- a) common name or description of food;
- b) complete statement of ingredients (in descending order of proportion by weight in which they are present);
- c) presence of the colouring, tartrazine
- d) volume or net weight

Singapore's Food Regulations do not specify the position where the labelling information must be declared on food label. The above requirements will apply if the above information are declared on the principal display panel.

For Nutri-Grade beverages labelled with the Nutri-Grade mark, the Nutri-Grade mark must fulfill the following minimum size requirements as required under Regulation 184D(5) of the Singapore Food Regulations:

- a) the long side of the mark must be at least the sum of the width and height of the front-of-pack (FOP) area, divided by 7 (expressed in an equation in Figure 3), subject to (b);

$$\text{Minimum length of long side of mark} = \frac{\text{width of FOP area} + \text{height of FOP area}}{7}$$

Figure 7. Minimum length of the long side of the Nutri-Grade Mark

- b) for the purpose of (a), the FOP area is demarcated by the printed area, sleeve or label on the package. In the case of cylindrical packages (e.g. bottles, cans), the width is defined as the circumference of the pack divided by three;
- c) in all circumstances, the long side of the mark must be at least 19.8 mm, the short side of the mark must be at least 8.5 mm, and the height of the words "NUTRI-GRADE" and the number stating its sugar content must at least 1.5 mm.

THE UNITED STATES

(9 CFR 317.2(h); 9 CFR 381.121)

For the name of the food, 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 PDP. Generally, this is considered to be at least 1/2 the size of the largest print on the label. 21 CFR 101.3(d)

(https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-dx?SID=b3644ed00f6fec90127feb8a9ca98681&mc=true&node=se21.2.101_13&rgn=div8)

For the net quantity of contents statement, or the net quantity statements, the minimum type size is the smallest type size that is permitted based on the space available for labelling on the PDP. Determine the height of the type by measuring the height of the lower case letter "o" or its equivalent when mixed upper and lower case letters are used, or the height of the upper case letters when only upper case letters are used. 21 CFR 101.7(h)(3)(i)

(https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-dx?SID=b3644ed00f6fec90127feb8a9ca98681&mc=true&node=se21.2.101_17&rgn=div8)

Minimum Type Size

- 1/16 in. (1.6 mm)
- 1/8 in. (3.2 mm)
- 3/16 in. (4.8 mm)
- 1/4 in. (6.4 mm)
- 1/2 in. (12.7 mm)

Area of Principal Display Panel

- 5 sq. in. (32 sq. cm.) or less
- More than 5 sq. in. (32 sq. cm.) but not more than 25 sq. in. (161 sq. cm.)
- More than 25 sq. in. (161 sq. cm.) but not more than 100 sq. in. (645 sq. cm.)
- More than 100 sq. in. (645 sq. cm.) but not more than 400 sq. in. (2580 sq. cm.)
- Over 400 sq. in. (2580 sq. cm.)

Question 10: Is there a required typeface style or size for food label?

As seen on Fig. 7, seven (7) economies - Australia, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, The Philippines and The United

States require a typeface style or size for food label.

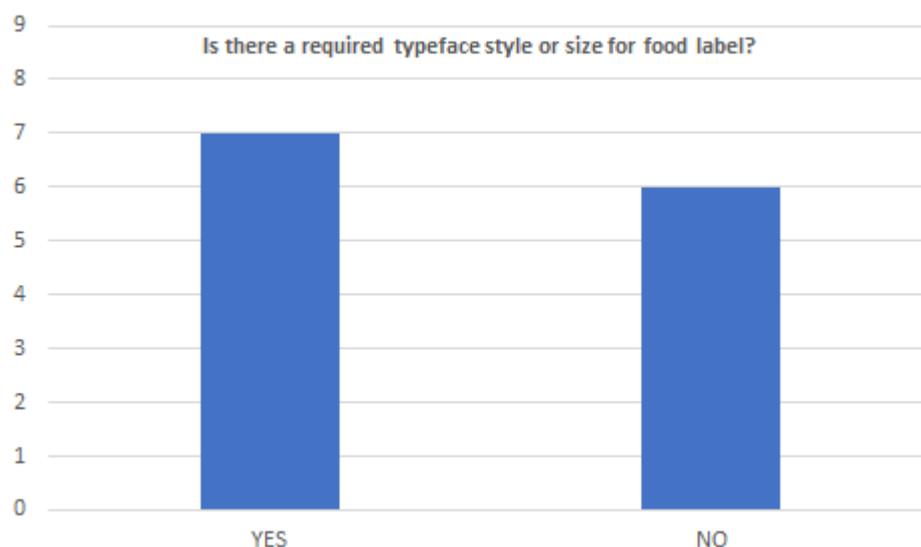


Figure 8. Responses of APEC Member Economies to question 10. Australia, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, The Philippines and The United States answered YES, while the rest answered NO.

Question 11: *Is there a specification on the expression of units of measurements and symbols?*

As shown on Fig. 8, three (3) economies – Malaysia, The Philippines and Thailand have no specification on the expression of units of measurement and symbols. Table 7 shows additional information provided by member economies for this question.

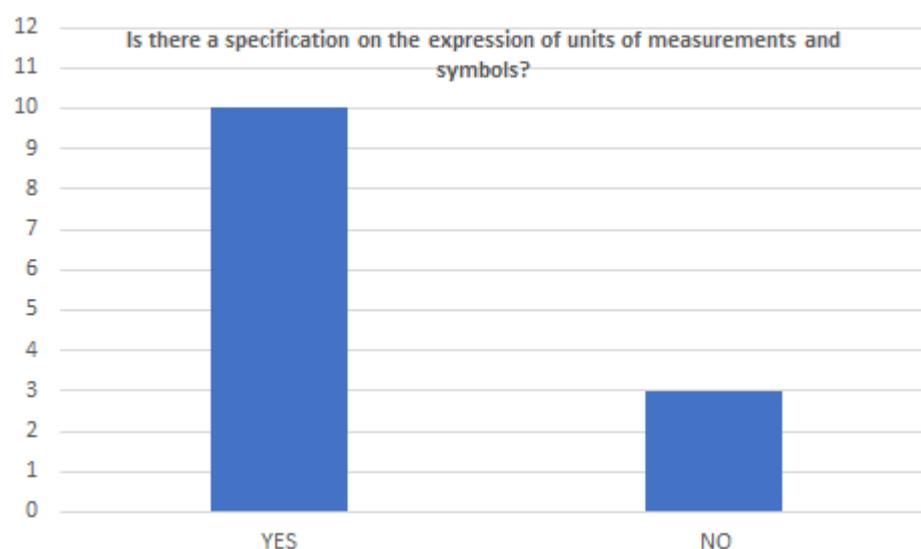


Figure 9. Responses of APEC Member Economies to question 11. Malaysia, The Philippines and Thailand answered NO, while the rest answered YES.

Table 7. Additional information on the expression of units of measurements and symbols

ECONOMIES	<i>Is there a specification on the expression of units of measurements and symbols?</i>
AUSTRALIA	Section 1.2.8-6 of Standard 1.2.8 Nutrition Information Requirements specifies the units of measurements that must be used when making nutrient declarations
CHILE	Net content shall be expressed in units of the metric system or the international system, by means of the unit symbol or with a complete word. No term of ambiguous meaning should accompany the net content values.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	a) liquid foods, either by volume litres (L)(l), milliliters (mL)(ml), or by mass grams (g), kilograms (kg); b) solid foods, by mass grams (g), kilograms (kg); semi-solid or viscous foods, by mass grams (g), kilograms (kg) or volume litres (L)(l), milliliters (ml).
INDONESIA	for solid products: milligram (mg), gram (g), kilogram (kg); for liquid products: milliliter (ml or mL), liter (l or L); for semi-solid products: milligram (mg), gram (g), kilogram (kg), milliliter (ml or mL), liter (l or L)
JAPAN	Weight must be displayed by "g" or "kg", and volume must be displayed by "ml" or "L".
MEXICO	NORMA OFICIAL MEXICANA NOM-030-SCFI-2006 (http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=4936602&fecha=06/11/2006)
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	weights (grams and micrograms, volume (milliliters) and percentage
THE PHILIPPINES	In the Philippines, metric system is used with equivalent symbols. (ITDI) – https://www.fda.gov/files/food/published/Food-Labeling-Guide-%28PDF%29.pdf Metric system of measurements or SI - BPS notes that there is a metrication law that requires metric system as Ph measurement system.
SINGAPORE	The units of measurement can be found under the Weights and Measures Act, which can be downloaded from https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Act/WMA1975
THAILAND	Contents of food shall be displayed in metric system
THE UNITED STATES	For quantities, the following abbreviations and none other may be employed (periods and plural forms are optional): weight wt pint pt ounce oz quart qt pound lb fluid fl gallon gal (21 CFR 101.7(n)) Also: tbsp for tablespoon, tsp for teaspoon, g for gram, mL for milliliter, oz for ounce, and fl oz for fluid ounce 21 CFR 101.9(b)(7)(iv)

Questions 12-15 seek to gather information on acceptable languages for the information on the labels. Table 8 shows a summary of responses of member economies for questions 12-15.

Question 12: *What languages does your economy require/permit to be used for information on the label?*

Four (4) economies – Australia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and The United States require English to be used for information on the label. While Chile, Mexico and Peru require Spanish to be used. Asian economies, such as the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan and Thailand require/permit their domestic language to be used for information on the label. Malaysia and The Philippines permit two (2) languages to be used – English and the economy's domestic language.

Question 13: *Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required?*

Only four (4) economies – Japan, Mexico and Papua New Guinea do not allow other languages to be included on the food label.

Question 14: *What are the mandatory product labels information that need to be in acceptable/required language/s?*

Out of the eighteen (18) elements, only six (6) mandatory product labels information that need to be in acceptable/required language/s were common amongst responses. These were: Product Name; Name of Manufacturer /

Packer / Distributor / Importer / Exporter / Vendor / Trader /Address & Contact Details; Measurement Marking of Quantity / Volume Content; Shelf life / Date Marking; Complete List of Ingredients; Nutrition Labelling.

Question 15: Does your economy require complete translation of the product label into the acceptable/required languages?

Eight (8) economies – Australia, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, The Philippines, and The United States require complete translation of the product label into the acceptable/required languages. On the other hand, the People's Republic of China requires only to translate the label content that must be marked, and Singapore requires only mandatory information to be declared in English. Peru permits stickers with the mandatory information. Papua New Guinea, strictly requires English to be used for labelling.

Table 8. Summary of Responses for questions 12-15

AUSTRALIA
Required Language: English
Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required? Section 1.2.8-6 of Standard 1.2.8 Nutrition Information Requirements specifies the units of measurements that must be used when making nutrient declarations. National Trade Measurement Regulations 2009 4.11 Set-out and form of measurement marking (1) The required measurement marking must be: (a) close to any name or brand of the product to which it relates; and (b) marked to be read in the same direction as any name or brand of the product to which it relates; and (c) at least 2 mm from the limits of the package; and (d) separated by at least 2 mm in all directions from other graphic matter or copy; and (e) in a form in which units of measurement under the metric system are ordinarily written in the English language.
Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language Product Name / Name of Food Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content Quantitative Ingredient Declaration (QUID) Lot Identification Shelf Life / Date Marking Storage Instructions Instructions for Use (Direction for Use) Complete List of Ingredients Irradiated Foods Nutrition Labelling Allergen Information / Caution
Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language National Measurement Act 1960 https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C00085/Download National Trade Measurement Regulations 2009 https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019C00581/Download
CHILE
Required Language: Spanish
Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required? The information on the label must be in Spanish, and may eventually be repeated in another language.
Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language Product Name / Name of Food Brand Name Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details Country of Origin Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content Quantitative Ingredient Declaration (QUID) Lot Identification Shelf Life / Date Marking Storage Instructions Instructions for Use (Direction for Use) Complete List of Ingredients Nutrition Labelling Allergen Information / Caution Consumer Complaint Desk Contact Information Allergen Information / Caution

<p>Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language The information on the label must be in Spanish, and may eventually be repeated in another language.</p>
<p>PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA</p>
<p>Required Language: Chinese</p>
<p>Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required? The font size in other languages shall not be greater than that in Chinese.</p>
<p>Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language Product Name / Name of Food Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content Quantitative Ingredient Declaration (QUID) Shelf Life / Date Marking Storage Instructions Irradiated Foods Nutrition Labelling</p>
<p>Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language Just translate the label content that must be marked.</p>
<p>INDONESIA</p>
<p>Required Language: Bahasa Indonesia</p>
<p>Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required? Information may be written in a foreign language as long as the aforementioned information has been previously written in Indonesian. In the event that the information on the label has no translation in Indonesian, information may be included in foreign terms.</p>
<p>Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language Product Name / Name of Food Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content Quantitative Ingredient Declaration (QUID) Shelf Life / Date Marking Storage Instructions Instructions for Use (Direction for Use) Complete List of Ingredients Irradiated Foods Nutrition Labelling Allergen Information / Caution Consumer Complaint Desk Contact Information</p>
<p>Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language The translation of product label is at least meet the mandatory requirement. Other information should also meet Indonesian requirement.</p>
<p>JAPAN</p>
<p>Required Language: Japanese</p>
<p>Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required? No</p>
<p>Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language Product Name / Name of Food Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details Country of Origin Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content Shelf Life / Date Marking Complete List of Ingredients Irradiated Foods Nutrition Labelling Allergen Information / Caution</p>
<p>Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language https://www.caa.go.jp/policies/policy/food_labelling/food_labelling_act/pdf/food_labelling_cms101_201009_4.pdf</p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p>
<p>Required Language: English, Malay</p>
<p>Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required? http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v6/xs/page.php?id=72</p>
<p>Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language Product Name / Name of Food Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details Country of Origin Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content Quantitative Ingredient Declaration (QUID)</p>

<p>Shelf Life / Date Marking Storage Instructions Instructions for Use (Direction for Use) Complete List of Ingredients Irradiated Foods Nutrition Labelling Allergen Information / Caution</p>
<p>Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language Applicable to the mandatory labelling requirement</p>
<p>MEXICO</p>
<p>Required Language: Spanish</p>
<p>Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required? No</p>
<p>Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language Product Name / Name of Food Brand Name Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details Country of Origin Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content Quantitative Ingredient Declaration (QUID) Lot Identification Shelf Life / Date Marking Storage Instructions Instructions for Use (Direction for Use) Complete List of Ingredients Nutrition Labelling Allergen Information / Caution Consumer Complaint Desk Contact Information</p>
<p>Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language NORMA OFICIAL MEXICANA NOM-051-SCFI/SSA1-2010. ÚLTIMA MODIFICACIÓN (https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5590668&fecha=27/03/2020).</p>
<p>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</p>
<p>Required Language: English</p>
<p>Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required? No</p>
<p>Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language Product Name / Name of Food Brand Name Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details Country of Origin Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content Quantitative Ingredient Declaration (QUID) Lot Identification Shelf Life / Date Marking Storage Instructions Instructions for Use (Direction for Use) Complete List of Ingredients Irradiated Foods Nutrition Labelling</p>
<p>Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language English is the only language to be used for labelling</p>
<p>PERU</p>
<p>Required Language: Spanish</p>
<p>Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required? The information in English is in addition to the mandatory information.</p>
<p>Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language Product Name / Name of Food Complete List of Ingredients</p>
<p>Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language Stickers with the mandatory information is permitted.</p>
<p>THE PHILIPPINES</p>
<p>Required Language: English, Filipino</p>
<p>Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required? It is allowed in use foreign languages in the labelling materials provided that these are translated into English. The FDA</p>

Regulations require that all information on a food product label should be either in English or Filipino or a combination thereof. For food products intended for export, the language acceptable to the importing country should be used.

In the case of imported food products, labels where the information is declared in a foreign language must include the corresponding English translation. In cases of exhaustion of existing labels permitted by the FDA, the importer may use a provisional sticker label for the English or Filipino translation, but the use of the sticker should not exceed six (6) months.

All information contained in the food product label should be accurate, legible and must be contained in a single sticker. The sticker must be durable, i.e. cannot be easily removed from the label or packaging.

Please also provide links for reference <https://www.fda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Administrative-Order-No.-2014-0030-A.pdf>

Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language

Product Name / Name of Food
Brand Name
Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details
Country of Origin
Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content
Quantitative Ingredient Declaration (QUID)
Lot Identification
Shelf Life / Date Marking
Storage Instructions
Instructions for Use (Direction for Use)
Complete List of Ingredients
Irradiated Foods
Nutrition Labelling
Supplementary Nutrition Information/ Supplement Facts/ Nutrition Facts
Allergen Information / Caution

Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language

All labelling information must be translated into English if written in foreign language (FDA) –

<https://www.fda.gov.ph/attachments/article/194724/AO2014-0030%20-%20Revised%20Rules%20and%20Regulation%20Governing%20of%20Prepackaged%20Food%20Product>

While PH exporters follow the PH labelling law, they also have to comply with the requirements of the markets and buyers, thus, information on the labels especially the Nutrifacts should be written in English, French or Arabic.

The FDA requires labelling of pre-packaged food products in acceptable language, which is English. Tagalog or any dialect is allowed with English translation. Any foreign language other than English must be translated into the acceptable language in the Philippines.

SINGAPORE

Required Language: English

Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required?

The mandatory labelling requirements under the Singapore Food Regulations must be declared in English texts.

The Singapore Food Regulations do not restrict the use of other languages in addition to the English text on food labels as long as the non-English texts do not contradict with the information as declared in English and do not contravene the said Regulations.

Additional labelling requirements such as date marking and nutrition labelling that are applicable to specific food products must also be in English text.

Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language

Product Name / Name of Food
Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details
Country of Origin
Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content
Shelf Life / Date Marking
Complete List of Ingredients
Irradiated Foods
Nutrition Labelling
Allergen Information / Caution

Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language

Only mandatory information must be declared in English.

THAILAND

Required Language: Thai

Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required?

Labelling maybe present other language together with Thai language according to the Notification of Ministry of Public Health No. 383 B.E. 2560

The labelling of import food shall have text in Thai language, and may have foreign languages as well.
<p>Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language</p> <p>Product Name / Name of Food Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details Country of Origin Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content Quantitative Ingredient Declaration (QUID) Shelf Life / Date Marking Storage Instructions Instructions for Use (Direction for Use) Irradiated Foods Nutrition Labelling Allergen Information / Caution</p>
<p>Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language</p> <p>Only required information in question No. 14 (according to relevant the Notification of Ministry of Public Health regarding labelling). At least the minimum information as in the answer of Question 2 shall be displayed in Thai language.</p>
THE UNITED STATES
Required Language: English
<p>Does your economy allow other languages to be included on the food label, in addition to the language required?</p> <p>The addition of languages other than English is voluntary. / pin yin, ayurvedic, Latin binomial name for botanicals</p>
<p>Mandatory Product Labels Information that need to be in Acceptable Language</p> <p>Product Name Brand Name Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address & Contact Details Country of Origin Measurement marking of quantity / Volume content Storage Instructions Instructions for Use (Direction for Use) Complete List of Ingredients Irradiated Foods Nutrition Labelling Allergen Information / Caution</p> <p>Others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Inspection Legend and Establishment Number • Country of origin for imported product only • Date of packaging for poultry only
<p>Mandatory requirement of changing product labels into acceptable language</p> <p>Mandatory features on the product label must appear in English.</p>

Question 16: *Are stickers and other similar removable labels acceptable or allowed, including any specific circumstances where stickers are allowed?*

The inquiry aims to gather information on the extent of the use of removable labels in the regulations of the APEC member economies. Interestingly, as shown in Fig. 9, it is noted that all respondents allow use of stickers or similar removable labels for their pre-packaged food products except for Indonesia. Links and/or specific regulations cited are listed in Table 9.

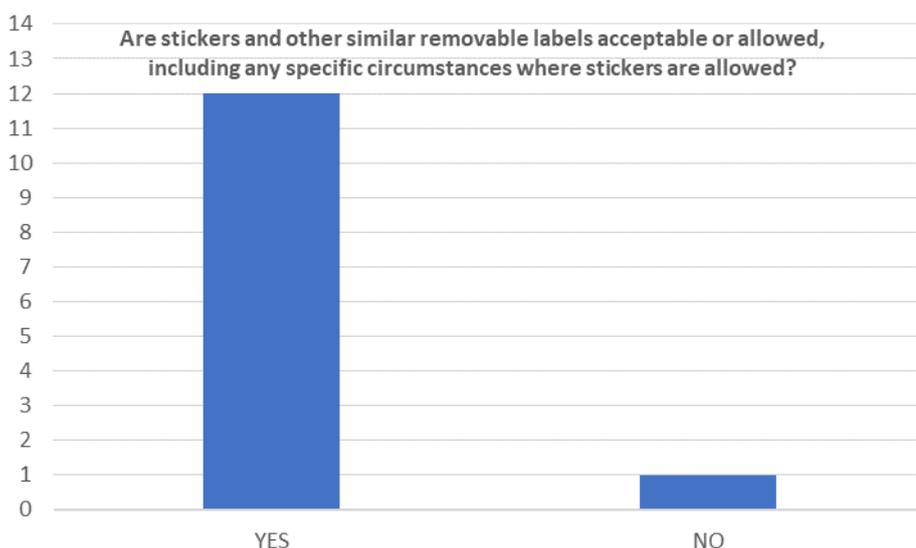


Figure 10. Responses of APEC Member Economies on question 16.
All responded yes except for Indonesia.

Table 9. Additional information on Laws/Regulations on the Use of Removable Labels or Stickers

AUSTRALIA
<p>Section 1.2.1-22 (1) states a person who sells a food for sale that is packaged, or deal with a packaged food for sale before its sale, must not deface the label on the package unless:</p> <p>(a) the relevant authority has given its permission, and</p> <p>(b) if the relevant authority has imposed any conditions on its permission - those conditions have been complied with.</p> <p>Subsection 1.2.1-22(2) states that despite subsection (1), a person who sells a food that is packaged, or deals with a packaged food before its sale, may re-label the food if the label contains incorrect information, by placing a new label over the incorrect one in such a way that:</p> <p>(a) the new label is not able to be removed, and</p> <p>(b) the incorrect information is not visible.</p> <p>Standard 1.2.1-Requirements to have labels or otherwise provide information, which is accessible from: https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>4.12 Size etc. of characters in measurement marking</p> <p>(1) The characters used in a measurement marking must be:</p> <p>(a) clear; and (b) stamped, printed, embossed, marked by an approved printing device or handwritten.</p> <p>(2) The characters must: (a) be stamped or printed in a colour that provides a distinct contrast with the colour of the background, and be of at least the minimum height required by the table in subregulation (3); or (b) be stamped or embossed, and be of at least 3 times the minimum height required by the table in subregulation (3); or (c) be marked by an approved printing device in characters at least 3 mm high; or (d) be legibly handwritten if permitted by subregulation (5).</p>
CHILE
<p>Any information specified in the regulation and that has not been considered in the original labelling, that is not in Spanish or is not indicated in accordance with the provisions of this regulation, must be placed on a label permanently attached to the container, of a size and proper location (Articles 108, 109)</p>
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
<p>Food labels must be attached or bound to the packaging.</p>
INDONESIA
<p>Non-removable sticker can be use</p>
MALAYSIA
<p>There is no amendment to the regulations as submitted through survey on 2015.</p> <p>http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v6/xs/page.php?id=72</p>
MEXICO
<p>ACUERDO por el cual se establecen los Criterios para la implementación, verificación y vigilancia, así como para la evaluación de la conformidad de la Modificación a la Norma Oficial Mexicana NOM-051-SCFI/SSA1-2010, Especificaciones generales de etiquetado para alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas preenvasados- Información comercial y sanitaria, publicada el 27 de marzo de 2020.</p> <p>http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5596558&fecha=10/07/2020</p>
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

There is no clear indication but most business used stickers and other removable labels.
PERU
It is just for imported food products.
THE PHILIPPINES
<p>Stickers must be durable and will only be allowed until 6 months after approval of registration (FDA) – https://ww2.fda.gov.ph/attachments/article/194724/AO2014-0030%20-%20Revised%20Rules%20and%20Regulation%20Governing%20of%20Prepackaged%20Food%20Product</p> <p>https://ww2.fda.gov.ph/index.php/issuances-2/pharml-1/pharml-administrative-order/322463-administrative-order-2016-0008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stickers are not allowed especially on products for exports, for safety reasons, i.e. it can be tampered, or get wet and removed while in transit • Sticker labels for locally produced food products are allowed as long as the labels will not blot when exposed to moisture or water. • The use of provisional sticker label for the English or Filipino translation shall only be allowed for a maximum period of 6 months.
SINGAPORE
<p>The use of sticker labels to incorporate the mandatory labelling information in English on the labels of food product is acceptable as long as the sticker label used is firmly attached on the product at all times, and it does not cover other essential information required under the Singapore Food Regulations. The information made available on the sticker labels should not contradict with those declared on the original label.</p> <p>Tampering of date marking (i.e. expiry date) declared on the original label is, however, prohibited under the Singapore Food Regulations.</p>
THAILAND
Permanent labelling and hard to remove.
THE UNITED STATES
<p>9 CFR 317.2 9 CFR 381, Subpart N</p> <p>The stickers should not cover other mandatory labelling, should adhere tightly, and remain attached and legible throughout the distribution process. Stickers may also be used for correcting label mistakes; however, when stickers are used to correct label mistakes, they should completely cover the incorrect information. Furthermore, while stickers provide a temporary fix, they may not be an adequate long-term solution if the requirements for placement and prominence are not also met.</p>

Question 17: *Are digital labelling technologies such as smart labels, QR codes, and RFID tags covered in economy's labelling rules/requirements?*

The question aims to map information on the labelling rules/requirements on digital labelling technologies. Only Indonesia and Papua New Guinea have such coverage in their rules/requirements, as shown in Fig. 10. Table 10 provides member economies' regulations on digital labelling technologies.

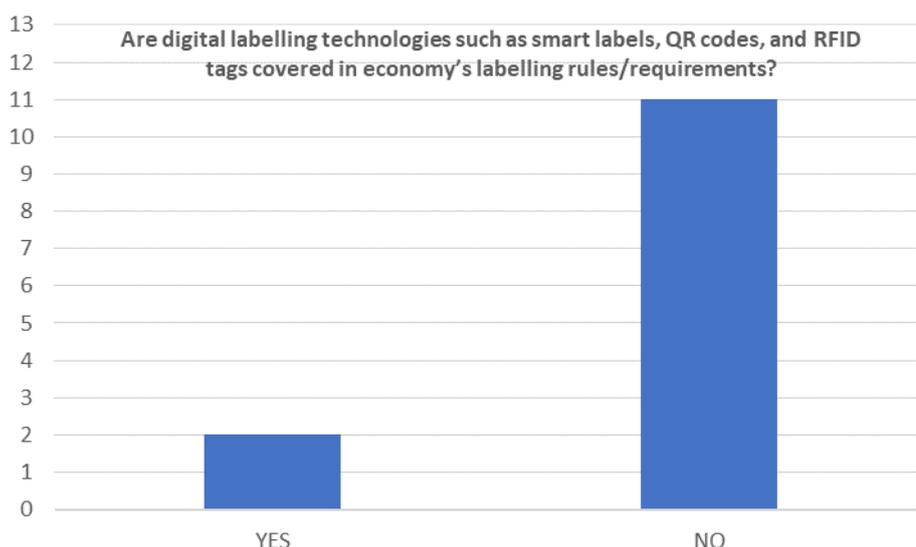


Figure 11. Responses of APEC Member Economies on question 17.
All responded NO except for Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Table 10. Additional information on coverage of digital labelling technologies in economy's labelling rules/requirements

ECONOMIES	Are digital labelling technologies such as smart labels, QR codes, and RFID tags covered in economy's labelling rules/requirements?
AUSTRALIA	NO. National Measurement Act 1960 https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C00085/Download National Trade Measurement Regulations 2009 https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019C00581/Download
CHILE	NO. So far the regulation does not consider new technologies in labelling. However, Chile participates actively in the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, where the use of new technologies on labels is being discussed. As Chile adheres to what is established in Codex, it is to be expected that if Codex makes any standard in this regard official, Chile should incorporate it into its regulation.
INDONESIA	YES. Registration Number Approval and Validity Period of Registration Number Approval
MEXICO	NO. EXPEDITION OF REGLAMENTO DE LA LEY DE INFRAESTRUCTURA DE LA CALIDAD
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	YES. Used during expiry dates and for marked down prices.
PERU	NO. Some food products have digital labelling technologies as QR without regulations
THE PHILIPPINES	NO. There are several products that uses bar codes and QR codes already although there are no guidelines implemented yet.
SINGAPORE	NO. The use of digital labelling technologies may be considered in the future.
THAILAND	NO. Not all of consumer can access information via digital labelling technologies. Food products contain in the returnable glass bottles and liquid food products of which the area in front of pack are less than 65 sq.cm and inadequate to display the nutrition information panel and Guideline Daily Amounts (GDAs) labelling, the nutrition detective mobile applications through mobile phones can be applied together with displaying at the area where the products are sold. Nevertheless, the nutrition panel and GDAs labelling can be displayed on each individual pack by complying with the relevant notification.
THE UNITED STATES	NO. FSIS is not considering legal or regulatory changes to accommodate digital labelling technologies at this time. FDA/CFSAN does not currently have any policy on digital labelling technologies.

Questions 18-19 aim to gather information on the existing laws/regulations on product information and contact

materials for pre-packaged food products.

Question 18: *Are there existing laws/regulations in your economy on requirements for food information available on the product information page regarding pre-packaged foods to be offered via e-commerce?*

All economies have no existing laws/regulations on requirements for food information available on the product information page regarding pre-packaged foods to be offered via e-commerce except Australia and Indonesia, as shown in Fig. 11. Table 11 shows additional information provided by member economies.



Figure 12. Responses from APEC Member Economies on question 18.
All responded NO except for Australia and Indonesia.

Table 11. Additional information on requirements for food information available on the product information page regarding pre-packaged foods to be offered via e-commerce

ECONOMIES	Are there existing laws/regulations in your economy on requirements for food information available on the product information page regarding pre-packaged foods to be offered via e-commerce?
AUSTRALIA	YES. National Measurement Act 1960 https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C00085/Download National Trade Measurement Regulations 2009 https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019C00581/Download
INDONESIA	YES. Indonesian FDA Regulation number 8 year 2020
THE PHILIPPINES	NO. But Food Manufacturer and Food Importer/Distributor shall be licensed and the products shall be registered with FDA.
SINGAPORE	YES. Regulation 184E of the Singapore Food Regulations states that an image of the Nutri-Grade mark must be displayed for Nutri-Grade beverages sold by retail online and whose grade is “C” or D”, so a prospective purchaser may see the image. This requirement is satisfied by ensuring the image of the Nutri-Grade mark is clearly displayed next to or in direct relation to the online image or text listing of the Nutri-Grade beverage.
THAILAND	NO. Thailand uses both the Notifications of the Ministry of Public Health Re: Labelling of Prepackaged Foods and the Direct Sale and Direct Marketing Act, B.E. 2545 (2002) to regulate food offered via e-commerce.
THE UNITED STATES	YES. Product website/webpage is considered labelling when products are offered for sale on the website/webpage. As such, any claims must be truthful and not misleading, and any nutrient content claims must meet the specific requirements for those claims. Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act section 321(m) for definition of “labelling”: [USC02] 21 USC 321: Definitions; generally, (house.gov)

Question 19: Are there existing laws/regulations in your economy on packaging/food contact materials for pre-packaged food products?

All economies have existing laws/regulations on packaging/food contact materials for pre-packaged food products, except Peru and The Philippines, as shown in Fig. 12. Table 12 shows additional information on economies' existing laws/regulations on packaging/food contact materials for pre-packaged food products.

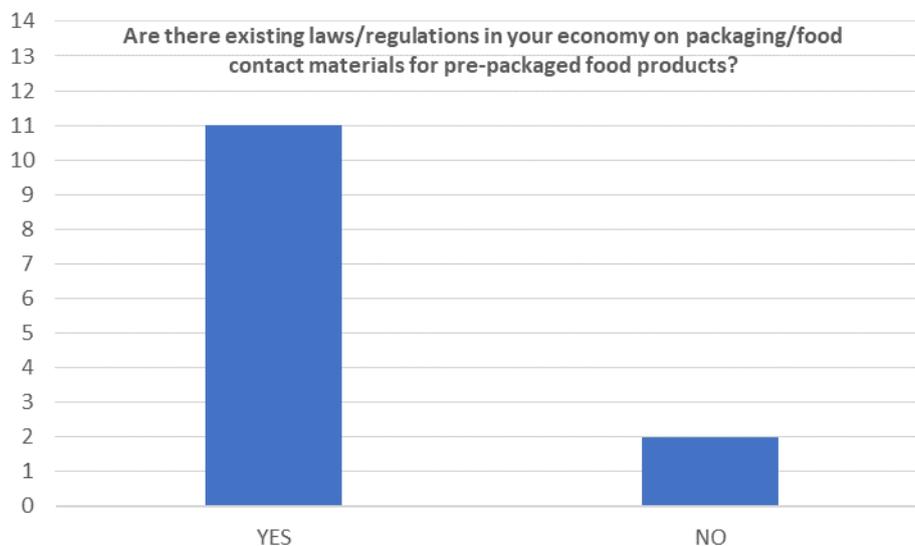


Figure 13. Responses from APEC Member Economies on question 19. All responded YES except for Peru and the Philippines.

Table 12. Additional information on economies' existing laws/regulations on packaging/food contact materials for pre-packaged food products.

ECONOMIES	Are there existing laws/regulations in your economy on packaging/food contact materials for pre-packaged food products?
AUSTRALIA	<p>YES.</p> <p>Relevant requirements in the Code pertinent to both Australia and New Zealand include general packaging requirements in Standard 1.1.1 (subsections 1.1.1-10(10) and (11) - Requirements relating to food for sale (Packaging requirements) and maximum levels (MLs) for three packaging contaminants, regulated by subsection 1.1.1-10(5) and Standard 1.4.1 - Contaminants and natural toxicants.</p> <p>Details of maximum levels for specific foods are provided in Schedule 19 (sections S19-4(metal contaminants) and S19-5 (non-metal contaminants).</p> <p>Standard 2.6.2 - Non-alcoholic beverages and brewed soft drinks has requirements for chemical limits in packaged water which align with WHO drinking water guidelines.</p> <p>For Australia, Standard 3.2.2 - Food Safety Practices and General Requirements and Standard 4.2.1 - Primary production and Processing Standard for Seafood have requirements pertaining to food packaging. Standard 3.2.2 requires that food businesses (including manufacturers, importers and retailers) must only use packaging that is fit for its intended use and only use material that is not likely to cause food contamination. Standard 4.2.1 also contains requirements for seafood businesses regarding the safety of packaging.</p> <p>The Standards and Schedules in the Code are available through the Food Standards Australia New Zealand website at: https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx</p>
CHILE	<p>YES.</p> <p>Articles of the Food Sanitary Regulation from 122 to 129</p> <p>https://dipol.minsal.cl/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/RSA-DECRETO_977-96-actualizado-a-noviembre-2019.pdf</p>
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	<p>YES.</p> <p>Food Safety Law</p> <p>http://gkml.samr.gov.cn/nsjg/zfjcj/202006/t20200612_316982.html</p>
INDONESIA	<p>YES.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA Number 18/2012 on Food • REGULATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA Number 86/2019 on Food Safety • REGULATION OF NATIONAL AGENCY OF DRUG AND FOOD CONTROL OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA Number 20/2019 on Food Packaging
JAPAN	<p>YES.</p> <p>Food Sanitation Act http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?ft=1&re=01&dn=1&co=01&ia=03&ja=04&x=0&y=0&ky=%E9%A3%9F%E5%93%81%E8%A1%9B%E7%94%9F%E6%B3%95&page=3</p>
MALAYSIA	<p>YES.</p> <p>Part VI Packages for Food, Malaysia Food Regulations 1985. Link: http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v6/xs/page.php?id=72</p>
MEXICO	<p>YES.</p> <p>LEY GENERAL DE SALUD http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/142_041220.pdf.</p> <p>REGLAMENTO DE LA LEY GENERAL DE SALUD EN MATERIA DE CONTROL SANITARIO DE ACTIVIDADES, ESTABLECIMIENTOS, PRODUCTOS Y SERVICIOS http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/regley/Reg_LGS_MCSEAPEPS_281204.pdf.</p>
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	<p>YES.</p> <p>Food sanitation Regulation 2007, Food Sanitation Act 1991 https://www.complianceandrisk.com/regulations/papua-new-guinea-food-sanitation-regulation-2007-33666/</p> <p>https://www.google.com/search?q=food+sanitation+act+1991+png&aq=chrome.1.69i5912j0i67i433j69i57j0i67i395j69i61j69i60j69i61.2993j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8</p>
SINGAPORE	<p>YES.</p> <p>All food contact articles (including food packaging) imported, used or sold in Singapore are required to comply with the safety requirements as stipulated under Regulation 37 of the Singapore Food Regulations. A soft copy of the Food Regulations can be downloaded from https://www.sfa.gov.sg/legislation?type=sale-of-food-act-chapter-283&page=1</p>
THAILAND	<p>YES.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notifications of the Ministry of Public Health No. 92 B.E. 2528 Re: Prescription of Quality or Standard for Food Containers and Prohibition of Use of Things as Food Containers 2. Notification of the Ministry of Public health (No. 295) B.E. 2548 (2005) Re: Qualities or standard for container made from plastic 3. Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 369) B.E. 2558 (2015) Re: Feeding Bottles and Milk Containers for Infants and Young Children <p>(Weblink:http://food.fda.moph.go.th/law/TH/pages/package.html)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://food.fda.moph.go.th/law/data/announ_moph/V.English/No.92-28%20Prescription%20of%20Quality%20or%20Standard%20for%20Food%20Container.pdf - http://food.fda.moph.go.th/law/data/announ_moph/V.English/No.295-48_Plasticcontainers.pdf - http://food.fda.moph.go.th/law/data/announ_moph/V.English/No.369%20Feeding%20Bottles%20and%20Milk%20Containers.pdf
THE UNITED STATES	<p>YES.</p> <p>9 CFR 324.24 9 CFR 381.144</p>

PART 3: INNOVATIONS

This part focuses on packaging and labelling innovations such as the use of recycled materials, technological/state-of the art advancements and green/sustainable/eco-friendly in food packaging.

Questions 20-22 aim to gather information on the existence of recycled materials, technological/state-of the art advancements and green/sustainable/eco-friendly in food packaging.

Question 20: Does your economy permit the use of recycled materials in food packaging?

As seen on Fig. 13, almost all member economies permit the use of recycled materials in food packaging, except for Chile, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Thailand. Table 13 shows additional information provided by member economies with regard to the use of recycled materials for food packaging.

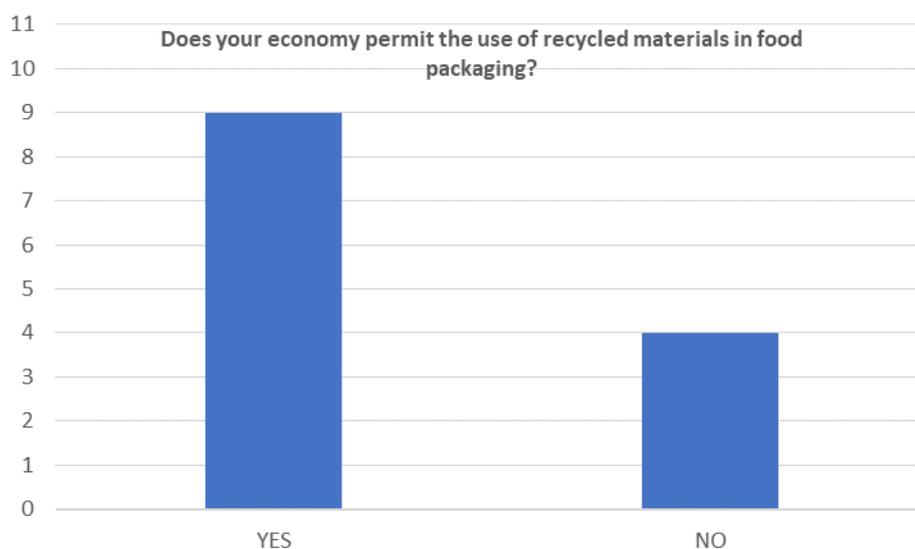


Figure 14. Responses from APEC Member Economies on question 20. Chile, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Thailand responded NO, while the rest responded YES.

Table 13. Additional Information on the existence of recycled materials for food packaging

ECONOMIES	Does your economy permit the use of recycled materials in food packaging?
AUSTRALIA	<p>YES.</p> <p>The requirements set under the Code apply to recycled materials in food packaging. The Standards and Schedules in the Code are available through the Food Standards Australia New Zealand website at: https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx</p>
CHILE	<p>NO.</p> <p>The use of returnable bottles is only allowed in the case of drinks and alcohols. To date, there has been no regulation in this regard because there have been other regulatory priorities to update in relation to food, such as updating the regulation on migration of contaminants from packaging to food.</p>
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	<p>YES.</p> <p>Food packaging can meet the requirements of food packaging, no requirements are renewable</p>
INDONESIA	<p>YES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law of The Republic of Indonesia Number 18/2012 on Food • Regulation of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia Number 86/2019 on Food Safety • Regulation of National Agency of Drug and Food Control of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20/2019 on Food Packaging • SNI 8424:2017 Recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET) resin <p>Indonesia already permitted the using of recycled materials in food packaging which requirement is similar to the virgin materials in food packaging.</p>
JAPAN	<p>YES.</p> <p>Food Sanitation Act</p> <p>http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?ft=1&re=01&dn=1&co=01&ia=03&ja=04&x=0&y=0&ky=%E9%A3%9F%E5%93%81%E8%A1%9B%E7%94%9F%E6%B3%95&page=3</p>
MALAYSIA	<p>NO.</p> <p>Currently, we do not have any specific regulations to permit the use of recycled materials in food packaging. The manufacture shall ensure the safety of the usage of recycled materials in food packaging.</p>
	YES.

MEXICO	<p>Ley General De Salud (http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/142_041220.pdf).</p> <p>Reglamento De La Ley General De Salud En Materia De Control Sanitario De Actividades, Establecimientos, Productos Y Servicios (http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/regley/Reg_LGS_MCSAEPS_281204.pdf).</p>
PERU	<p>YES.</p> <p>For food beverage (PET bottles)</p>
THE PHILIPPINES	<p>YES.</p> <p>This is specific only for Bottled Water. There are no guidelines yet for other processed food products. Below are stated in AO 2007-0044: - https://ww2.fda.gov.ph/attachments/article/17216/AO%202007-0044.pdf</p> <p>There is no specific required test, but test should justify the safety such as Leachability Test.</p> <p>The use of recycled packaging materials as food contact materials maybe allowed in cases such as bottle to bottle e.g. PET bottles for beverages recycled for the same purpose/application. But the recycled PET bottles must be tested and certified as food grade (no migration of packaging related contaminants). Generally, the use of recycled packaging materials is not allowed as food packaging due to safety issues.</p>
SINGAPORE	<p>YES.</p> <p>There is currently no specific provision under the Singapore Food Regulations that regulates the use of recycled materials in the manufacturing of food packaging. The use of recycled materials, as with any other virgin materials, in food packaging applications must comply with the provisions of regulation 37 of the Singapore Food Regulations.</p>
THAILAND	<p>NO.</p> <p>There are several reasons that Thai FDA concerned with the use of recycled plastic materials in food packaging including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) contaminants from the post-consumer material may appear in the final food packaging which made from the recycled material. 2) recycled post-consumer material not regulated for food packaging use may be incorporated into food packaging supply chain, and 3) some adjuvants in the recycled plastic may not suitable for food packaging use. <p>However, we are on process to revise this regulation.</p> <p>Generally, recycled materials are not allowed to be used in food packaging with one exceptance for inedible peel fruits. This is according to the Ministry of Public Health Notification NO. 295 B.E.2548 (2005) Title: Qualities or Standards of Containers made from Plastic (link is provided in Q.19) in Clause 8 specifies that "It is prohibited to use a plastic containers made from recycled plastic to contain food, except to contain fruit of which the peel is not consumed."</p>

Question 21: *What are some representative examples of technological/state-of the art advancements on food packaging being applied by businesses in your economy? Cite an example.*

As shown in Table 14, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and The Philippines shared information on their economy's technological/state of the art advancements in food packaging. The rest of the economies did not have relevant information.

Table 14. Information on technological/state of the art advancements in food packaging

ECONOMIES	What are some representative examples of technological/state-of the art advancements on food packaging being applied by businesses in your economy? Cite an example
INDONESIA	Indonesia has already developed food packaging made by food ingredients such as cassava starch for bio-plastic.
JAPAN	<p>Best practices of highly functionalized containers and packaging that contribute to the reduction of food loss and waste</p> <p>(http://www.maff.go.jp/j/shokusan/recycle/youki/attach/pdf/index-67.pdf / https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olh09KUVkS4&feature=youtu.be)(only in Japanese)</p>
MEXICO	There is an annual exposition called "expo pack" in Mexico where producers know the last technological advances on food packaging.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Paradise Foods Ltd, This business has packaging material that is durable, keeps product safe and give long self-life.
THE PHILIPPINES	Encoding the pre-packaged foods using laser printing technology is now being applied by businesses in the Philippines. Digital printing of labels is also commonly used for short run printing. For food packaging the use of stand-up pouches, high barrier films and active packaging technology are emerging trends in the Philippines. Paper Packaging

Question 22: *What are some examples of green/sustainable/eco-friendly food packaging being applied by businesses in your economy? Please provide details, if any.*

Table 15 shows the responses from Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, sharing some examples of green/sustainable/eco-friendly food packaging.

Table 15. Examples of green/sustainable/eco-friendly food packaging being utilized by businesses

ECONOMIES	What are some examples of green/sustainable/eco-friendly food packaging being applied by businesses in your economy? Please provide details, if any.
INDONESIA	Some companies have already submitted application for ecolabel inclusion on food packaging as a responsible for environmental sustainability. The submission of this ecolabel is handled by Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and for details on this site: http://standardisasi.menlhk.go.id/index.php/barangjateknologi-ramah-lingkungan/barang-berlabel-lingkungan/ekolabel-yang-berbasis-sni/ http://standardisasi.menlhk.go.id/index.php/barangjateknologi-ramah-lingkungan/barang-berlabel-lingkungan/ekolabel-swadepklarasi/
JAPAN	Bottle to Bottle (Recycling drinking bottles made from PET to new bottles.)
MEXICO	Biodegradable logo, organic product claim and logo, recycled materials logo.
THE PHILIPPINES	Generally, material reduction on packaging is one of the solutions to be cost effective and to be green. The other approach being undertaken is recycling of plastic bottles for the same purpose (B2B). Paper products, glass containers for use and reuse - In the Philippines, the biggest food conglomerate, San Miguel Corporation (SMC) set up a 150 million \$ recycling project to produce environment-friendly packaging materials for the local food and beverage industries using polyethylene terephthalate (PET). PET is the preferred packaging because of its light weight, clarity, and shatter resistance. It also ranks as the most recyclable packaging material in the world today (SMC website). The main processing plant is in San Fernando, Pampanga in Luzon, with conversion operations in the three major islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. PET is already being recycled abroad into second generation products, such as T-shirts, windbreakers, sleeping bags, carpets and athletic shoes, among other things. The collection of PET bottles is an ongoing nationwide campaign with the support of existing bottle collectors and SMC's subsidiary, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, Inc., on the crest of its successful 'Mission P.E.T.' project launched in 2000. The first of its kind in Asia, SMC's PET recycling plant opened doors of opportunity in the community through direct employment and contracting services.
SINGAPORE	Some examples can be found on the webpage of Singapore Packaging Agreement and Packaging Partnership Programme at www.nea.gov.sg/SPA
THAILAND	Biodegradable packaging such as PLA (Polyacetic acid)

PART 4: ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO BUSINESSES

This part focuses on the assistance being provided for businesses such as the existence of facilities to test the effectiveness of new packaging materials, and guide references/materials to comply with requirements set forth in the regulations.

Questions 23-25 aim to map information on the assistance being provided by members for compliance of businesses with the regulations. Most of the respondents have websites containing information on the requirements.

Question 23: Does your economy have facilities/technologies to conduct tests on the effectiveness of new packaging materials in terms of protecting and preserving the products during storage and transportation?

As shown in Fig. 14, five (5) economies – Indonesia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru and The United States do not have facilities/technologies to conduct tests on the effectiveness of new packaging materials in terms of protecting and preserving the products during storage and transportation. Table 16 shows the summary of member economies’ responses.

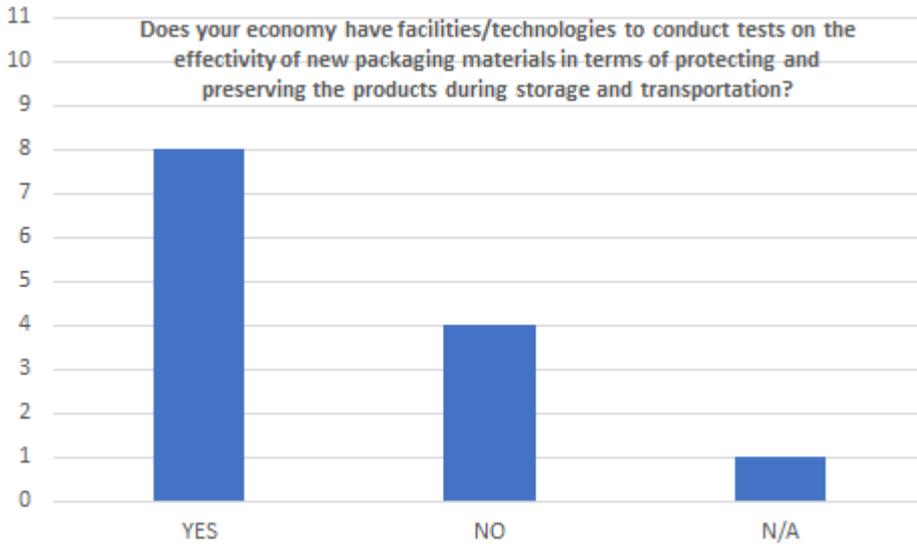


Figure 15. Responses from APEC Member Economies on question 23. Indonesia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and, Peru responded NO, while the rest responded YES. The United States responded N/A.

Table 16. Available facilities / technologies

ECONOMIES	Does your economy have facilities/technologies to conduct tests on the effectivity of new packaging materials in terms of protecting and preserving the products during storage and transportation?
AUSTRALIA	YES. The requirements set under the Code apply to recycled materials in food packaging. The Standards and Schedules in the Code are available through the Food Standards Australia New Zealand website at: https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx
CHILE	YES. University Research Centers
PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	YES.
INDONESIA	NO.
JAPAN	YES. The details are not confirmed
MALAYSIA	YES. Kindly refer to https://www.sirim.my/services/inspection/inspection-services
MEXICO	NO.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	NO.
PERU	NO.
THE PHILIPPINES	YES. The DOST-Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI) is among the instrumentalities that laid the groundwork, for S&T in the country. Today, it is one of the DOST’s RDIs (research and development institutes) and undertakes multidisciplinary industrial R&D, technical services, and knowledge translation or

	<p>technology transfer and commercialization. ITDI harnesses know-how in new technology and product innovation, and through the years, has emerged as a credible and reliable industry and government partner in accelerating growth and development in the country. The ITDI is multidisciplinary and its R&D activities are focused on five major areas, namely: food processing, materials science, chemicals and energy, environment and biotechnology, and packaging technology.</p> <p>Aside from developing ready-to-transfer technologies, DOST-ITDI has been providing technical assistance to the Filipino industries, from product packaging to product development, such as packaging R&D, process improvement, cleaner production, plant layout, test and analysis, waste treatment, and many other technical services which have resulted in increased production volume and productivity.</p>
SINGAPORE	<p>YES. Food Innovation & Resource Centre (FIRC) at Singapore Polytechnic provides technical advisory and testing on packaging materials including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess product, process and packaging compatibility to maximise product shelf life during transportation, storage and retail display - Ascertain barrier properties such as oxygen transmission rate test, water vapour transmission rate tests and thermal tests
THAILAND	<p>YES. University, Government and private laboratories</p>
THE UNITED STATES	N/A

Question 24: *Does your economy have available materials to guide businesses on how to comply with your requirements? Does your economy provide these materials in English?*

All economies provide available materials to guide businesses on how to comply with the requirements. However, only seven (7) economies provide these materials in English namely Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Singapore and The United States, as shown in Fig. 15. Table 17 shows the summary for member economies' responses on materials available, and whether they have those in English.



Figure 16. Responses from APEC Member Economies on question 24.

Chile, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, and Thailand responded NO, while the rest responded YES.

Table 17. Summary of responses for available materials to guide businesses

ECONOMIES	Does your economy have available materials to guide businesses on how to comply with your requirements?	Does your economy provide these materials in English?
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AUSTRALIA	<p>YES. FSANZ website NMI website and printable information The ACCC website provides a range of guidance materials for businesses to aid their compliance with country of origin food labelling requirements.</p>	<p>YES. www.foodstandards.gov.au</p> <p>https://www.industry.gov.au/regulations-and-standards/buying-and-selling-goods-and-services-by-weight-and-other-measurements</p> <p>The ACCC website provides a range of guidance materials for businesses to aid their compliance with country of origin food labelling requirements.</p>
CHILE	<p>YES. Guides to support small producers with labelling, especially with the “Altos en” stamps, there are also free courses for small producers on this topic.</p>	<p>NO. https://www.minsal.cl/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Manual-Etiquetado-Nutricional-Ed.-Minsal-2017v2.pdf</p>
PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	<p>YES. Release of National standards for food safety; Release of Pre-packaged Food Label Interpretation</p>	<p>NO.</p>
INDONESIA	<p>YES. Guidance, trainings, seminars, workshops, technical assistance</p>	<p>NO.</p>
JAPAN	<p>YES. Materials such as pamphlets, guidelines and manuals on food labelling are provided at the web site of Consumer Affairs Agency.</p>	<p>YES. Not all but some of the above materials are provided in English (https://www.caa.go.jp/en/policy/food_labelling/)</p>
MALAYSIA	<p>YES. Part VI Packages for Food, Malaysia Food Regulations 1985 for mandatory standard. Malaysia also has voluntary standard to guide business to make sure the quality of food packaging. Kindly refer to this link https://www.sirim.my/services/standards-quality</p>	<p>YES.</p>
MEXICO	<p>YES. Sistema Integral de Normas y Evaluación de la Conformidad (https://www.sinec.gob.mx/SINEC/)</p> <p>Acuerdo por el que la Secretaría de Economía emite reglas y criterios de carácter general en materia de Comercio Exterior publicado en el Diario Oficial de la Federación el 31 de diciembre de 2012 y sus modificaciones (http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5283884&fecha=31/12/2012)</p>	<p>NO. Sistema Integral de Normas y Evaluación de la Conformidad (https://www.sinec.gob.mx/SINEC/)</p>
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	<p>YES. Food Sanitation Regulation, Standards</p>	<p>YES. https://www.complianceandrisks.com/regulations/papua-new-guinea-food-sanitation-regulation-2007-33666/</p> <p>https://www.google.com/search?q=food+sanitation+act+1991+png&oq=foo&aqs=chrome.1.69i5912j0i67i433j69i57j0i67i395j69i61j69i60j69i61.2993j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8</p> <p>https://www.google.com/search?q=pngnisit&oq=png+&aqs=chrome.1.69i5912j69i57j69i59j69i65j69i61j69i60i2.7266j1j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8</p> <p>https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=ALeKk008W8YDIQY15sVhkSOM0qn615_pXQ%3A1610604485402&ei=xd__X7bbF4W19QOho7yADQ&q=national+department+of+health&oq=national+depart+of+health&gs</p>

PERU	YES. The regulation and the relevant information is available in the web page	NO. http://www.digesa.minsa.gob.pe/
THE PHILIPPINES	YES. Client Registration Manual Video Presentation Aside from the available information/guidelines from FDA website, the Department of Science and Technology the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) collaborate to provide various assistance that would enable them to improve their products and get registered with FDA	YES. https://www.google.com/search?q=client+registration+manual+fda.gov.ph&oq=client+registration+manual+fda.gov.ph&aqs=chrome..69i57.9604j0j1&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8 https://ww2.fda.gov.ph/index.php/issuances-2/pharm1-1/pharm1-administrative-order/322463-administrative-order-2016-0008
SINGAPORE	YES. To assist food businesses, Singapore has made available A Guide to Food Labelling and Advertisements, which provides explanation and checklist on how to comply with the labelling requirements for prepackaged food products. We have also provided a list of SFA – Frequently Asked Questions for a quick reference on specific queries on labelling and packaging requirements. The Vitamins and Nutrients Calculator can be used as a reference to ensure that the food product meets the criteria for the use of the respective nutrition claims made on the product label. To assist food businesses in understanding and implementing the labelling and advertising requirements for Nutri-Grade beverages, Singapore has also made available the following materials, available at this link: https://www.hpb.gov.sg/healthy-living/food-beverage/nutri-grade : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Guidance document • Usage Guide for Graphic Applications of the Nutri-Grade mark 	YES. (a) A Guide to Food Labelling and Advertisements - https://www.sfa.gov.sg/food-information/labelling-packaging-information/labelling-guidelines-for-food-importers-manufacturers (b) SFA – Frequently Asked Questions - https://www.ifaq.gov.sg/SFA/apps/Fcd_Faqmain.aspx (c) Vitamins and Nutrients Calculator - https://www.sfa.gov.sg/tools-and-resources/vitamins-and-nutrients-calculator (d) Guidance documents on requirements for Nutri-Grade beverages - https://www.hpb.gov.sg/healthy-living/food-beverage/nutri-grade
THAILAND	YES. Explanation of the Notification of Ministry of Public Health regarding Feeding Bottles and Milk Containers for Infants and Young Children Guidance documents and information leaflets are available in the respective competent authorities, e.g. Thai FDA.	NO. http://food.fda.moph.go.th/law/TH/pages/package.html http://food.fda.moph.go.th/law/index.php
THE UNITED STATES	YES. FSIS Labelling Guidance materials can be found at Labelling Guidance (usda.gov).	YES. Businesses can access FSIS Labelling Guidance materials at Labelling Guidance (usda.gov).

Question 25: *What are the assistance being provided by your economy to businesses for them to be able to comply with your requirements (trainings, seminars, workshops, etc.)?*

All economies provide assistance to businesses to comply with requirements. Table 17 provides an overview on the types of assistance being extended by the respondents to businesses.

Table 17. Assistance provided by Member Economies to Businesses to ensure Compliance to Requirements.

ECONOMIES	What are the assistance being provided by your economy to businesses for them to be able to comply with your requirements (trainings, seminars, workshops,
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	etc.)?
AUSTRALIA	Inspections, information sessions The ACCC engaged with a range of stakeholders, including businesses and industry groups, in the lead up to and during the implementation phase of the Standard. This included educational presentations on Australian country of origin labelling requirements.
CHILE	Courses are held for small producers to support them in nutritional labelling.
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	Online advisory services; trainings
INDONESIA	Trainings, seminars, workshops, technical assistance regularly
JAPAN	Holding seminars for the food-related businesses, providing pamphlets for them explaining the rules of food labelling.
MALAYSIA	The business can attend any related course offered by the International Food Safety Training Centre (IFSTC). For more information kindly refer to http://fsq.moh.gov.my/v6/xs/page.php?id=243
MEXICO	Seminars and workshops
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Trainings or course, workshops and seminars
PERU	Monthly seminars are provided, or meetings.
THE PHILIPPINES	FDA Academy offers Qualified Person in Regulatory Affairs (QPIRA) Seminars which help stakeholders to understand and comply with the licensing and registration requirements. Information dissemination, trainings, seminars through the Philippine Export Competitiveness Program (PECP), Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) Training, seminars and conference are conducted to disseminate information and new guidelines as regards food labelling. As for our institution, through the Packaging Technology Division (PTD) of ITDI, label designs developed for MSMEs are already according to the mandatory requirements of the Philippines or other country of destination e.g. USA Businesses are provided with information, training on food manufacturing, testing facilities and mentoring on how to get registered.
SINGAPORE	Food businesses who need further assistance on prepackaged food labels can also approach our appointed food labelling consultants. There is also a 2-day course titled "Follow Good Food Labelling Practices" conducted by a tertiary institution, which aims to help traders comply with the legal requirements for labelling. Traders are strongly encouraged to attend, and the course fees are heavily subsidized by the government.
THAILAND	Besides guidance and information leaflets, training, seminars, workshops as well as short video clips published online, and hotline are available to assist business and consumers to understand the laws and regulations and make inquiries.
THE UNITED STATES	FSIS conducts extensive outreach to business, including industry-led trainings and workshops (more information can be found at https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulatory-compliance/labelling/Labelling-Policies#Generic).

D. Comparison of Key Results (2015 vs 2020 surveys)

1. Almost the same number of members participated in the survey.

Table 18. List of Respondents during 2015 vs. 2020

2015	2020
Australia	Australia
Chile	Chile
Hongkong, China	

	People's Republic of China
	Indonesia
Japan	Japan
Malaysia	Malaysia
Mexico	Mexico
New Zealand	
	Papua New Guinea
Peru	Peru
The Philippines	The Philippines
Singapore	Singapore
Chinese Taipei	
Thailand	Thailand
The United States	The United States
Viet Nam	

Australia, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and The United States participated in both surveys. While, Hong Kong China, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei and Viet Nam only responded in 2015 and in 2020, new respondents were People's Republic of China, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea

2. Responding members confirmed that laws and regulations are in-place for packaging and labelling requirements for pre-packaged food products. Additional laws and implementing agencies were included by responding agencies.

AUSTRALIA – Additional laws and regulations in 2020 are National Measurement Act 1960 and The Australian Consumer Law or ACL (Schedule 2 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth)) and the Country of Origin Food Labelling Information Standard 2016 (the Standard) govern country of origin labelling for food products in Australia.

MALAYSIA – Additional law and regulation in 2020 is Food Irradiation Regulations 2011

SINGAPORE – Change in Implementing Agency from Agri-food and Veterinary Authority to Singapore Food Agency

THE UNITED STATES – Added in 2020 laws and regulations are the following: Federal Meat Inspection Act, Poultry Products Inspection Act, Egg Products Inspection Act, Agricultural Marketing Act, Meat Labeling Regulations: 9 CFR 317, Poultry Labeling Regulations: 9 CFR 381, Subpart N, Egg Product Labeling Regulations: 9 CFR 590(410)

Relevant Laws (FDA):

- Misbranding: U.S.C. Title 21 - FOOD AND DRUGS (govinfo.gov)
- Fair Packaging and Labeling Act: U.S.C. Title 15 - COMMERCE AND TRADE (govinfo.gov)
- Food Labeling: Gluten-Free Labeling of Foods Final Rule (August 5, 2013)
- Food Labeling; Gluten-Free Labeling of Fermented or Hydrolyzed Foods (August 13, 2020)
- Infant Formula Act of 1980

Relevant FDA Regulations:

- Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1 and 101, Food Labeling Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFR)
- Infant formula Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 105-107

Japan, The Philippines and Thailand have the same laws and regulations as well as the implementing agencies.

3. Interestingly, three out of forty plus information in the survey are required (mandatory to be placed in the label) across all participating economies for 2015 and 2020.

Table 19. Comparison of mandatory labelling requirements from 2015 to 2020

2015	2020
Product Name	Product Name
Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address	Name of Manufacturer/ Packer/ Distributor/ Importer/ Exporter/ Vendor/ Trader, Address

and Contact Details	and Contact Details
Quantity/Volume Content (Net or drained weight)	Net Content

4. On nutrition labelling, in 2020, all respondents shared that this is mandatory with some qualifications:

Table 20. Responses of Member Economies on nutrition labelling in 2020

CHILE	PERU	THE PHILIPPINES	SINGAPORE	THAILAND	THE UNITED STATES
The amount of any other nutrient or food factor, such as dietary fiber and cholesterol, for which a declaration of nutritional and / or health properties is made, must be indicated.	It is mandatory just for food for special regimen, not mandatory by nutrients;	If there is a health or nutritional claim, then nutrition labelling becomes mandatory; RENI format is mandatory for the Philippines) Iron and Iodine to be included	Nutrition labelling is only required for: (a) prepacked food products that carry nutrition claim and/or health claim; (b) edible fats and oils; (c) special purpose food: and d) Nutri-Grade beverages, except coffee or a preparation o coffee, drinking water, herbal infusions, tea or a preparation of tea, which do not contain any calories, protein, fat, saturated fat, carbohydrate and sugar.	It is mandatory only for foods which have nutrition claim, foods which utilizing food value in sale promotion, foods which define consumer groups in sale promotion and other food as notified by the FDA.	For dietary supplements, any dietary ingredients (nutrients) that are not present, or that are present in amounts that can be declared as zero in 21 CFR 101.9(c), must not be declared in the Nutrition Labelling [21 CFR 101.36(b)(2)]

In 2015, Australia and Malaysia shared additional information:

AUSTRALIA	MALAYSIA
Only energy, protein, carbohydrates, total sugars, total fat, saturated fat and sodium must be declared in the Nutrition Information Panel (NIP) on Australian and New Zealand food labels. Dietary fibre, trans fat, polyunsaturated fat, monounsaturated fat, cholesterol, vitamins and minerals must be declared in the NIP only when a claim about the nutrient is made elsewhere on the label. Biologically active substances must also be declared in the NIP when a claim about them is made elsewhere on the label.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition labelling is required for fortification. • Please note that nutrition labelling is only mandatory for certain food. Only energy, protein, carbohydrates and fat must be declared in the Nutrition Information Panel (NIP). Declaration of total sugars in the NIP is mandatory for ready-to-drink beverages only. Trans fatty acid, polyunsaturated fatty acid, monounsaturated fatty acid, saturated fatty acid, vitamins and minerals must be declared in the NIP only when a claim about the nutrient is made. Dietary fibre, cholesterol and sodium are optional to be declared in the NIP.

5. New questions fielded as requested by different Members which generated substantive responses. Further delving per topic will be needed to generate further specification discussions.

Additional Labelling information for sweetened beverages in powder	7 out of 13 responded that there are no required additional requirements which are Australia, Chile, People's Republic of China, Japan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and
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form	the United States.
Health claims or therapeutic claims allowed to be put on label	Different requirements are applied by member economies.
Existing laws/regulations on labelling requirements for gene editing	People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have existing laws /regulations on labelling requirements for gene editing. While, Australia's laws/regulations on labelling requirements for gene editing is still under review
Specification on the use of photographs and graphic representations	8 out of 13 responded that they have specific requirements on use of photographs.
Voluntary information on label	While voluntary information is allowed to be put on the label, however, this is still subject to specific requirements.
Required typeface style or size for food label	Seven (7) economies - Australia, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, The Philippines and The United States require a typeface style or size for food label.
Digital labelling technologies such as smart labels, QR codes, and RFID tags covered in economy's labelling rules/requirements	Only Indonesia and Papua New Guinea have such coverage in their rules/requirements
Requirements for food information available on the product information page regarding pre-packaged foods to be offered via-e-commerce	Three (3) economies - Australia, Indonesia and The United States have existing laws and regulations
Requirements for packaging/food contact materials for pre-packaged food products	Peru and The Philippines do not have existing laws and regulations
Use of recycled materials in food packaging	Chile, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Thailand does not permit the use of recycled materials in food packaging
Technological/state-of-the-art advancements on food packaging being applied by businesses in the economy	Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and The Philippines shared information on their economy's technological/state of the art advancements in food packaging
Green/sustainable/eco-friendly food packaging being applied by businesses in the economy	Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand shared some examples of green/sustainable/eco-friendly food packaging
Presence of facilities/technologies to conduct tests on the effectivity of new packaging materials in terms of protecting and preserving the products during storage and transportation	Five (5) economies – Indonesia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru and The United States do not have facilities/technologies to conduct tests on the effectivity of new packaging materials in terms of protecting and preserving the products during storage and transportation

6. Minimum height requirements, font sizes

Minimum height requirements	Japan answered YES in 2015 and NO in 2020 while Philippines answered NO in 2015 and YES in 2020
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7. NO change on the required/permitted languages to be used on the label across the responding economies.

8. Specification on the expression of units of measurements and symbols.

Units of measurements and symbols	The Philippines and Thailand answered YES in 2015 while NO in 2020. The rest of the economies' answers are the same for 2015 and 2020
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9. Requirement of complete translation of the product label into the acceptable/required languages

Translation of product label into required languages	Japan answered NO in 2015 while YES in 2020 Mexico answered NO in 2015 while YES in 2020 Thailand answered YES in 2015 while NO in 2020 The United States answered NO in 2015 while YES in 2020 The rest of the economies' answers are the same for 2015 and 2020
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10. All economies allow stickers or other similar removable labels except for Indonesia. To note, Indonesia was not a respondent in the 2015 survey.

III. KEY FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS

Part of the objectives of the project is to compare pre-packaged food packaging and labelling requirements from 2015 to 2020, as well as seek information tackling new areas of interest including digitalization and sustainability in this field. The key findings from the responses of the APEC member economies are shown below.

Comparison Between 2015 and 2020 Survey

The economies which shall be the basis of comparison are Australia, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and The United States.

- All economies still have laws/regulations concerning packaging and labelling requirements; however, there were differences in the implementing agencies of some member economies, particularly Singapore, Thailand, and The United States.
- Product Name, and Manufacturer Information and Contact Details are consistently being required across all participating economies from 2015 to 2020.
- Storage Instructions and Instructions for use are no longer required across all participating economies from 2015 to 2020.
- The responses of member economies with regard to the minimum height requirements of numbers and letters for labelling information in relation to the area of principal display panel as of 2020, are the same, except for Japan and The Philippines.
- The responses of member economies regarding the specification on the expression of units of measurements and symbols are constant, except for The Philippines and Thailand, such that they both no longer require such specifications.
- There are no changes on the languages required and permitted to be used for information on the label.
- All economies have differing mandatory product label information that need to be in acceptable/required language/s.
- The responses of member economies with regard to the complete translation of the product label into the acceptable/required languages are the same except for Japan, Mexico, Thailand, and The United States.
- All economies allow stickers or other similar removable labels.
- Chile, Mexico and Thailand did not have available materials to guide businesses on how to comply with requirements in 2015 but already have in 2020.
- All economies consistently provide assistance to businesses to comply with requirements for in a span of 5 years from 2015-2020.

Based on these findings, the packaging and labelling requirements of member economies have evidently changed in the span of five years, especially with regard to mandatory product label information that need to be in acceptable/required language/s, and translation of the product label into the acceptable/required languages. Moreover, it is also important to note that some economies previously did not have available materials to guide businesses on how to comply with requirements, but now, all economies have. This only shows that the economies are aiming for globalization as they are tackling language barriers amongst the global value chain and capacitating MSMEs to comply with laws/regulations.

Responses from the APEC Member Economies for the recent 2020 survey

Laws/Regulations

All respondents surveyed have specific laws/regulations concerning packaging and labelling requirements. It was also noted that there are additional laws/regulations and implementing agencies for some member economies during the five-year span.

Information on labels and other requirements

- Respondents have diverse requirements of the information to be indicated in the labels of pre-packaged food products.
- Most respondents no longer require additional labelling information for sweetened beverages in powder form
- Respondents have different regulations regarding health claims or therapeutic claims label of food / dietary supplement

- Respondents from Asia Region, particularly the People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, have existing laws /regulations on labelling requirements for gene editing while Australia is in the process of reviewing its law/regulation in gene editing.
- Respondents in Asia Region, particularly People’s Republic of China, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and The United States, have no specifications on the use of photographs and graphic representations
- Respondents have diverse regulations on what information can be put voluntarily on the label
- Most respondents require a typeface style or size for food label
- Most respondents require a translation of selected information into required (domestic) languages, while other economies allow the use of the domestic language and English.
- All respondents except for one economy allow the use of stickers or removable materials but different processes are in place to implement the use of such materials
- Most respondents do not have digital labelling technologies such as smart labels, QR codes, and RFID tags covered in economy’s labelling rules/requirements
- Most respondents do not have existing laws/regulations on requirements for food information available on the product information page regarding pre-packaged foods to be offered via-e-commerce
- Most respondents have existing laws/regulations on packaging/food contact materials for pre-packaged food products
- Most respondents permit the use of recycled materials in food packaging

Innovation

- Some respondents shared information on their economy’s technological/state of the art advancements in food packaging as well as sample of green/sustainable/eco-friendly food packaging
- Not all economies have facilities/technologies to conduct tests on the effectivity of new packaging materials in terms of protecting and preserving the products during storage and transportation

Guides/Assistance for Business

Most respondents have websites that are accessible by its relevant stakeholders. Information available includes:

- Laws and regulations
- Guides / Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) / Questions and Answers (Q&As)
- Contact Points to place queries and hotlines

It is important to note, however, that these materials are in their domestic languages.

Most respondents have also instituted capacity building programs (workshops, seminars, courses) for business to ensure their compliance to requirements.

These results provide insights that regulations on packaging and labelling for pre-packaged food products are continuously evolving, taking into account, the developments in food technology (gene editing, smart labels), shift in consumer behavior or change in mode of trade (e-commerce and sustainable packaging) and policy objectives pursued by members. It also continues to highlight the divergence and convergence in the requirements across the participating members including the information that can be put voluntarily on the food labels, use of photographs, acceptable typeface/type size of letters and date marking, to mention a few.

Moreover, these key findings provide an overview of other opportunity areas for member economies to exchange information in the future, such as the role of technologies in the development of standards and requirements for food labels, eco-friendly and sustainable packaging and technical infrastructure to support the innovation for new packaging materials as well as the traditional topics such as, health claims or therapeutic claims, nutrition labelling as these were not covered by the survey. These are areas that may also provide further information on other requirements that need to be complied to be able to access APEC members’ economies.

IV. CONFERENCE REPORT

A. CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The conference objectives are aligned with the overall project objectives, mainly focusing on the following:

- Raise awareness on pre-packaged food packaging and labelling requirements and highlight the development of international standards and conformance.
- Provide a platform for sharing of information and best practices in the latest trends of packaging and labelling.

B. CONFERENCE DATE AND TIME

The APEC Conference on Pre-packaged Food Packaging and Labelling was held last 17-18 November 2021 in Manila, Philippines (via virtual platform) from 08:30 AM - 12:30 PM. It was organized by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS) in cooperation with other DTI Bureaus namely Design Center of the Philippines (DCP), Bureau of Domestic Trade Promotions (BDTP), Export Marketing Bureau (EMB), Board of Investments (BOI) and Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) in partnership with the Industrial and Technology Department Institute (ITDI) under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Food and Drug Authority (FDA) under the Department of Health (DOH).

C. PARTICIPANTS

GENDER

The project considers the importance of implementing gender-sensitive considerations and executing the preparations in a gender-neutral manner. The project overseer encourages the nomination of women speakers and participants. While the preparations were executed in a gender-neutral manner, the project was able to achieve its target of 30% representation of women as speakers/experts and participants.

The project addressed three of the five pillars in the Gender Criteria under APEC to empower women: access to market, capacity building, innovation and technology.

a. SPEAKERS

Out of the 23 speakers, 13 are female (56.5%) which exceeded the target of 30%.

b. ATTENDEES

The two-day conference was attended by a total of 234 participants, predominantly female at 57.3%, surpassing the 30% target for the conference, as seen on Figure 16. This shows a good gender balance, achieving the objective of the project to promote a gender-neutral environment

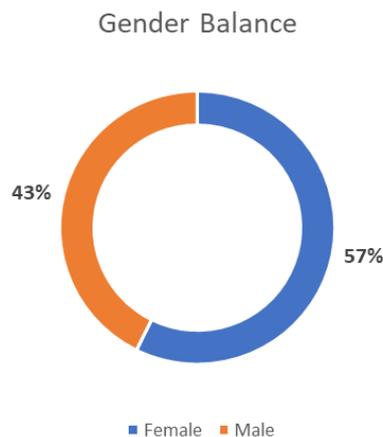


Figure 17. Participant gender balance

ECONOMY

With the aim to be proactive in seeking resource speakers for the conference in consultation with other member economies, especially the project's co-sponsoring economies, 7 international and 2 local speakers were targeted. The project was able to reach the target with 16 international speakers from across the APEC member economies, and 7 local speakers. Speakers came from 11 different member economies, namely Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, Peru, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, The Russian Federation, The United States.

Participants that attended the two-day conference came from 15 APEC member economies as shown on the figure below, with the Philippines having the most number of representatives at 63%. Figure 17 shows the breakdown of attendees in percentage.

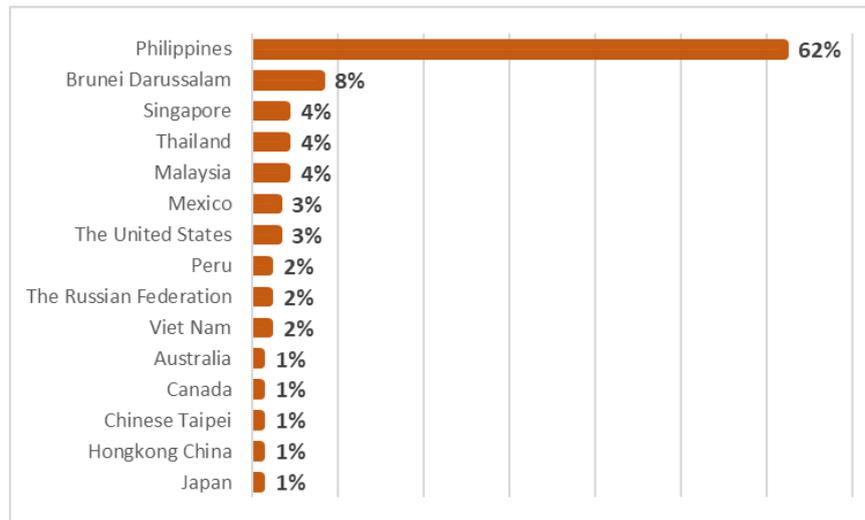


Figure 18. Composition of the participants during the 2-day conference.

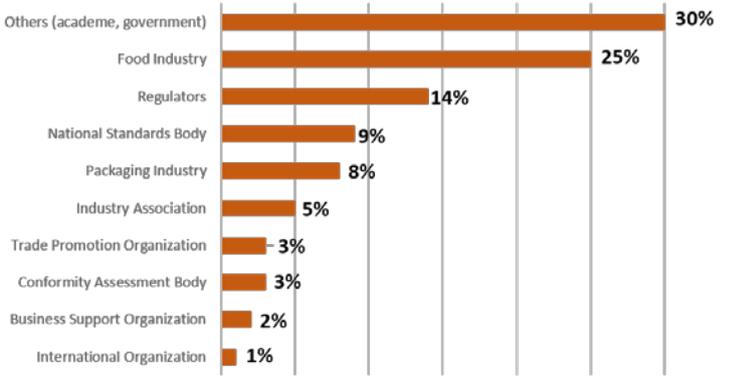
SECTOR

The project invited the participation of the following sectors relevant to packaging and labelling:

- a. MSMEs in the region that are involved in food trade including food chambers/organizations
- b. Regulators
- c. Trade promotion offices and business support organizations
- d. National Standards Bodies

The number of participants per sector is shown in Figure 18.

SECTOR



FOOD INDUSTRY

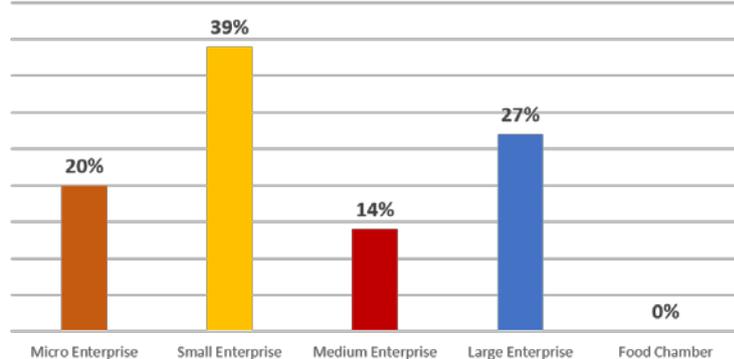


Figure 19. Sectoral breakdown of the participants

It could be observed that the attendees were mostly dominated by the food industry sector, particularly coming from small enterprises. There is a relatively good distribution of the number of participants from the food industry sector with 39% from small enterprises, 27% from large enterprises, 20% from micro enterprises, and 14% from medium enterprises, well-representing MSMEs. Based on this, the project was able to achieve its objective of primarily targeting MSMEs.

D. CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS¹

**a. The APEC Conference on Pre-packaged Food Packaging and Labelling
17-18 November 2021
DAY 1**

The conference was hosted by Ms. Ma. Flordeliza C. Leong, Vice-President - Advocacy and Special Concerns of Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PHILEXPORT), the umbrella organization of Philippine Exporters accredited under the Export Development Act (EDA) of 1994.

Atty. Ruth B. Castelo, Undersecretary, DTI-CPG opened the conference by delivering her message which focused on building a better world for tomorrow and also invited the participants to join plenary sessions and virtual exhibits on packaging solutions as part of the conference.

The objectives and overview of the two-day conference was shared by Mr. Neil P. Catajay, Director, Bureau of Philippine Standards, Department of Trade and Industry.

SESSION 1: Updates on Packaging and Labelling Requirements (Across the Globe)

This session aims to give our participants updates on packaging and labelling requirements across the globe.

The International Trade Centre (ITC), the only development agency that is fully dedicated to supporting the internationalization of MSMEs, was invited as a speaker for session 1 of the conference to discuss the global trends

¹ The presentation materials for all sessions can be found on Appendix D.

observed by the organization with regards to packaging and labelling requirements.

SPEAKER	PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS
<p>Mr. Frederic Couty Senior Advisor Export Packaging International Trade Center (ITC)</p>	<p>Mr. Couty shared the basic purpose of food safety and protection. Key notes included the evolution of packaging and its relation to environment, ecosystem, transportation, logistics, life cycles and supply chain. In this session, it was also presented how in this pandemic, more regulations, policies, standards and protocols were all pushed by e-commerce.</p> <p>Mr. Couty’s presentation consisted of the trends on pre-packaged food and labelling based from the analysis of the International Trade Centre’s from conducted country reports. Key notes from the presentation included the evolution of packaging and its relation to environment, ecosystem, transportation, logistics, life cycles and supply chain.</p> <p>In discussing the packaging system, sustainability was identified as a global trend necessary for reducing the changes brought upon by climate change. Mr. Couty highlighted that the entire supply chain was fully aware and working on more sustainable solutions for packaging.</p> <p>In this session, it was further discussed how e-commerce prompted more regulations, policies, standards and protocols due to the impacts of the pandemic.</p> <p>With regards to the issues, challenges and solutions to the harmonization of labelling and packaging requirements, Mr. County emphasized that the first issue encountered was the level of maturity of each economic space. ITC was hesitant if these economies can work together in an open area, since this issue was prevalent in previous cases. ITC stressed the importance of setting objectives in order for economies that are sufficiently impactful in terms of benefits to ensure that everyone will be able to implement it and follow the speed of development. Mr. Couty concluded that the formula for this was still yet to be developed.</p>

Session 2: Updates from Codex Alimentarius Committee (CAC)

The Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization Food Standards Programme. The CAC consists of General subject committees which develop General Standards, Guidelines and Codes of Practice which are applied to all products and product categories. These texts deal with hygienic practice, labelling, additives, inspection & certification, nutrition and residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides.

Particularly in this session, speakers from the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) and Codex Alimentarius Committee on Contaminants in Food presented.

SPEAKER	PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS
<p>Ms. Kathy Twardek Chairperson Codex Alimentarius Commission Canada Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)</p>	<p>Ms. Twardek focused on food labelling and its importance to food industry, consumers and implementing agencies. The presentation provided a background for the Codex Alimentarius Commission’s work in the development of international food standards in which stakeholders were encouraged to take part to ensure interests are considered in the development of international standards that govern food safety regimes and labelling requirements being implemented by APEC.</p> <p>Ms. Twardek highlighted that labelling information helps consumers make</p>

	<p>informed choices and includes mandatory labelling information as well as information voluntarily applied by companies that gives consumers additional information on products (e.g. consumer values to managing diet-related health concerns). It is essential for labels to not be false nor misleading.</p> <p>From all the information shared, it was made apparent) that consensus building was foundational to achieving success to developing standards and guidelines that reflect the needs and interest of all Codex members. To achieve this, collaboration through communication, sharing ideas and looking for possible solution was required.</p>
<p>Ms. Hannah Margaret M. Rabaja PH Codex Committee on Food Labelling Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Department of Health (DOH)</p>	<p>The presentation included the Updates from PH Codex Sub-Committee on Food Labelling, The Philippine National Codex Organization, Members and Membership and PH SCFL 2021.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the engagement between the government and private sector has been institutionalized, alive and well and this is important on so many compliance issues for regulators and private sectors.</p> <p>The Chair of PH Codex Sub-Committee for Food Labelling stressed that the Codex standards were voluntary, but referencing these standards was essential because these were used by economies as a benchmark for each their [national] standards. These Codex standards are acceptable in international trade and in settling in the disputes in the World Trade Organization.</p>
<p>Mr. Phelan Apostol PH Codex Sub-Committee on Contaminants on Food Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Department of Health (DOH)</p>	<p>Mr. Apostol shared about Food Contaminants: An Update from the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food held last May 2021 virtually.</p> <p>The speaker indicated that food contamination was a severe public health problem around the world and a global food safety issue resulting from food borne diseases that affect humans. Contrary to the statement, the presentation provided solutions for the stakeholders' involvement in the development of standards to counter the effects of possible food contaminants that can harm one's health, environment and ecosystem.</p> <p>The Chair of the Philippine Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCCF) informed of the organization's guidance about the possible approach to the contamination problem and promotes international harmonization through recommendations to avoid trade barriers</p>

Session 3: Packaging and Labelling - Innovations and Best Practices (innovative packaging and labelling products – eco-friendly, sustainable, uses digital technologies)

This session showcases innovative packaging and labelling solutions, such as eco-friendly and sustainable packaging, and the use of digital technologies for labelling. Our speakers for this session are representatives from the World Packaging Organization and the Design Center of the Philippines.

The World Packaging Organization (WPO) is a non-profit, non-governmental, international federation of national packaging institutes and associations, regional packaging federations and other interested parties including corporations and trade associations. The WPO encourages the development of packaging technology; contributes to the development of international trade; and stimulates education and training in packaging.

The Design Center of the Philippines (DCP) on the other hand, is the Philippines' leading agency committed to cultivating a culture that thrives on creativity, value creation, and innovation. From enhancing human experiences to enabling inclusive and sustainable economic growth, DCP ensures that design plays its role as a creative, strategic, and innovative tool for positive development.

SPEAKERS	PRESENTATION OF HIGHLIGHTS
<p>Prof. Pierre Pienaar President World Packaging Organization (WPO)</p>	<p>Mr. Pienaar’s presentation centered on the specific topic: “Sustainable Packaging: A Global Perspective for 2022”. It is important to note that recycling plays a vital role in sustainable packaging. Subsequently, there is a need to develop solutions to reduce packaging waste. Mr. Pienaar proposed that the ultimate future challenge is a shift from Linear Economy to Circular Economy. This can be made possible through continuous Education, Equipment and Empowerment.</p> <p>Mr. Pienaar further explained that packaging is necessary in our society today for various reasons [such as] for food safety and quality, protecting the food, and certainly extending its shelf life. Consequently, we need to develop solutions where we are reducing the volume of packaging while always ensuring the quality is maintained.</p>
<p>Ms. Isabel Regina Z. Meriales Design Center of the Philippines (DCP) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)</p>	<p>The presentation mentioned consumer sentiments of fear, desynchronized society, equitable resilience and radical optimism. The pandemic caused lifestyle changes where there’s an increase in tech-focus in food and drinks such as QR codes and the following: tech acceleration, high quality food at home, food as medicine, shift towards plant-based, frozen food renaissance, rise of localism, sustainable hygienic packaging, rise of substitutes and reducing waste & accepting imperfections.</p> <p>Ms. Meriales shared the design trends in product packaging such as supercharged simplicity (everyday items elevated), rerooted to nature, awestruck (digital and physical worlds collide), design wise (temperature-sensitive for frozen food products, soul space and full spectrum).</p>

During the live discussion, Ms. Meriales talked about the ways in which the DCP operationalized its programs to help MSMEs through image making services, design seminars, briefing seminars, partnerships with DTI and consultation services to improve the product itself.

On the sustainability of paper, Mr. Pienaar reassured that paper was, indeed, sustainable only if kept in its plain raw state; once proteins are added then it will present some problems. In its plain state it is truly sustainable and recyclable, but the problem lies within life cycle analysis (LCA). In comparison to the production of a plastic bag, Mr Pienar stated the bigger impact of creating a paper bag on our environment. However, WPO emphasized the importance of discarding plastic bags properly, because it presents a greater threat when not placed in the recycling system after use.

On the other hand, Ms. Meriales was asked about the design errors encountered by MSMEs and how they were addressed. She mentioned that MSMEs who approached DCP normally come up with incomplete labelling requirements. DCP helps them to comply with labelling requirements - ex. lack nutrition facts, DCP will help MSMEs consult with proper agency or get proper hierarchy for their branding. Also, DCP wants to make the brand recognizable and legible. Their goal is to capture the attention of consumers and strengthen the brand to stand out. It’s important to note that DCP is not only for design assistance but for technical details as well.

Session 4: Panel Discussion

APEC work towards internationalization of MSMEs and navigating NTMs

The next session was a panel discussion focusing on APEC work towards internationalization of MSMEs and navigating (Non-tariff Measures) NTMs.

The Session Moderator is Mr. Jerry T. Clavesillas, the Director of the Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development of the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry. He gave an overview of the session which included (1) The Boracay Action Agenda Substantive Report and (2) APEC Policy Support Unit - Overview on the key issues faced by MSMEs with regard to internationalization and market access.

SPEAKERS	PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS
<p>Ms. Ana Clarisa Abastillas Senior Trade-Industry Development Specialist Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)</p>	<p>The presentation emphasized the Boracay Action Agenda Final Review. Included was the Philippine Hosting of the APEC 2015 with the BAA Priority Actions, in sum: PA1,2,3,4 Trade Facilitations, PA5 Financing, PA6 Digital Economy, PA7 Institutional Support and PA8 Women MSMEs.</p> <p>Ms. Abastillas highlighted the APEC Global MSME Forum 2021 (28-30 June 2021) as the capstone activity of multi-year implementation of BAA. The findings of the Final Review reported the 279 projects and initiatives implemented from 2016-2020 which were supported and sponsored by Chinese-Taipei, Philippines and Mexico.</p> <p>It was mentioned that concentration was on PA6,7,8 through the online tools supporting the internationalization of MSMEs namely APEC Trade Repository, ITC Trade Portal and Global Trade Helpdesk.</p>
<p>Dr. Akhmad Bayhaqi Senior Analyst Policy Support Unit APEC Secretariat</p>	<p>Dr. Bayhaqi presented an extensive report on the situation of MSMEs in the APEC Region particularly on how they fare as far as internationalization and exporting is concerned.</p> <p>The case study of Chile from the published report of the APEC PSU “Overview of the SME Sector in the APEC Region: Key Issues on Market Access and Internationalization” used by the speaker to further discuss the challenges faced by SMEs when engaging with internationalization activities, encountering barriers to trade, and the dilemma of lack of information.</p> <p>Dr. Bayhaqi concluded the presentation by noting the significance of networking for SMEs based on the American Economic Review: Insights. SMEs cannot grow alone, they need to have a mentor; and a strong connection with a bigger enterprise which has benefits in terms of understanding the market, the production technology and others. Moreover, the GVC network is very important for SMEs to continuously grow.</p>

Ms. Abastillas was asked to share on the next steps regarding the BAA. She stated that during the APEC SME Working Group meeting last September, the BAA framework was very good in a pre-pandemic scenario. APEC economies should understand that the new normal is geared towards the digital economy, therefore, there is a need to put forward the importance of digitalization on internationalization.

APEC PSU’s sectoral approach in identifying the values for the exports made by MSMEs within APEC was discussed. Dr. Bayhaqi stressed the challenge in data gathering for each sector, but referred to available census data which can still be useful. It was reiterated that the only way for MSMEs to grow is to be responsible and make sure that their labelling and certifications are in compliance with what is required.

**b. The APEC Conference on Pre-packaged Food Packaging and Labelling
17-18 November 2021
DAY 2**

Session 5: Packaging and Labelling Requirements

Nine Speakers from member economies were invited for this session namely: Japan, Malaysia, Peru, People’s Republic of China, (2) Thailand, Chile, The Russian Federation and The United States. Each speaker outlined their country’s standards and requirements for packaging and labelling products.

SPEAKERS	PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS
<p>Ms. Miwa Ichijo Deputy Director Food Labelling Division Consumer Affairs Agency</p>	<p>Ms. Ichijo provided a presentation on the outline of Japan’s food labelling system. The presentation consisted of a brief introduction on the Consumer Affairs Agency and the Food Labelling Act 2013 - a law which aimed to ensure safety if ingesting food by consumers.</p>

<p>Government of Japan</p>	<p>Guided by the Food Labelling Act 2013, Japan discussed the necessary labelling requirements for the different food categories (i.e. processed, fresh). Ms Ichijo further specified the different ways of labelling such categories by identifying the needed details placed in the product. Labelling requirements such as the expiration date, allergen labelling, nutritional composition, country of origin, list of ingredients, genetic modifications, food products derived from genome-editing technology, system of food with function claims.</p> <p>focused on the organization of Consumer Affair Agency, outline of Food Labelling Act: fresh food, processed food, food additives, expiration date, allergen, nutritional composition, country of origin, list of ingredients, genetic modifications, food products derived from genome-editing technology, system of food with function claims.</p>
<p>Ms. Nur Liyana Mohamad Nizar Senior Assistant Director Food Safety & Quality Division Ministry of Health, Malaysia</p>	<p>The speaker introduced the Food Safety Quality Division under the Ministry of Health as the regulatory authority for food safety in Malaysia. Ms. Nizar highlighted the important regulations, derived from Food Act 1983, which served as a foundation for Malaysia in ensuring the public is protected from health hazards and fraud in the food preparation, sale and use.</p> <p>As the speaker stated, Malaysia is constantly revising the food laws, regulations and standards to align with current needs as well as international requirements references are to be made to Codex standards, translation, nutrition facts, fonts, sizes of letters, address of manufacturers, etc.</p> <p>Ms. Nizar noted that the challenge on these requirements arise if the product is small to fit all information in the labelling, regardless, Malaysia continues to resolve related issues.</p>
<p>Ms. Edith Villanueva Specialist on Food Safety (Regulations on packaging requirements expert) General Directorate of Environmental Health on Food Safety Ministry of Health, Peru</p>	<p>Ms. Villanueva talked about the right of consumers to access timely, sufficient, truthful and easily accessible information relevant in making consumer choices suited to their interests, and in appropriate use or consumption of a product.</p> <p>Some of Peru's requirements to note were stating the fat contents, GMO labelling, easy to read and understand, use of compound letters/numbers, conservation relating to the environment.</p> <p>.</p>
<p>Mr. Hangyu Yu Associate Research Fellow National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment People's Republic of China</p>	<p>The speaker presented on the People's Republic of China's Food Labelling Management. A diagram of the food labelling standards under the Food Safety Law was explained along with its three parts, namely: the food products, food additive products, and food contact materials. Currently, the speaker noted the 22 standards present for food products in the People's Republic of China.</p> <p>Mr. Yu outlined the 10 important details to remember for the economy's mandatory labelling requirements which were: date marking, foreign languages, single ingredients list, original ingredients list, country of origin including agent and importer information, health function contents, ingredients qualitative declaration, nutrition labelling, nutrition facts and Food Production License Number & Product Standards Code.</p>

<p>Ms. Dawisa Paiboonsiri Standards Officer Professional Level National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards Thailand</p> <p>Ms. Jiraratana Thesasilpa Food and Drug Technical Officer Senior Professional Level Food and Drug Administration Thailand</p>	<p>Ms. Paiboonsiri introduced the presentation by stating the agencies involved in the food labelling requirements and food control in Thailand. Ms. Paiboonsiri discussed the Agricultural Standards Act 2008 (mandatory and voluntary standards) which controlled the use of certification mark for both types of standards.</p> <p>The Food Safety Control under Food Act 1979 was presented by Ms. Thesasilpa. She also presented the Regulatory Requirements for Food Products under Food Act 1979 and Food Packaging Regulation by Thai FDA. The certification marks permitted to be placed on labels were clearly shown through an actual product label sample.</p> <p>Thailand also included the additional requirements for products catering to infants and young children.</p>
<p>Ms. Maria Paz Grandon Head of Division of Public Policies and Health Promotion Ministry of Health, Chile</p>	<p>Ms. Grandon’s presentation centered on children and the advocacy of citizens to shift to healthier food. The speaker mentioned studies on sugar/sodium contents with industry compliance and consumer preferences and trends related to such.</p> <p>She ended with the future challenges faced by their agency and the recommendations of the industry on talks regarding food and labelling and its effect on children.</p>
<p>Mr. Petr Bobrovskiy Chairman of Technical Committee for Standardization №223 “Packaging” of Rosstandart Chair of ISO TC 122/SC3 The Russian Federation</p>	<p>Mr. Bobrovskiy presented the Standardization and Regulatory Framework in Russia and Eurasian Economic Union which also include Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Important to note the EAEU Free Trade Agreements and the Mandatory Track and Trace System, a technology-based monitoring compliance.</p> <p>In Russia, standards for packaged food were stated to use the “GOST R” standards. GOST standards were regional standards which, some were identical to ISO Standards, in cases as such the title GOST ISO was given.</p> <p>It was emphasized that the EAC was a mandatory label for all goods and products in Eurasia. The EAC label was an indication that the product met the mandatory requirements of the technical regulation.</p> <p>A visualization of the placement of the mandatory requirements was shared through a sample of food product labels (chocolate); the Russian National Voluntary Certification System was explained along with the other voluntary labels shown.</p>
<p>Mr. Douglas Balentine, Ph.D. Senior Science Advisor Global Nutrition Policy at the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)</p>	<p>Mr. Balentine started his presentation by outlining the responsibilities of FDA in food labels. He talked about the Statement of Identity, Ingredients, Multiple languages, Major Food Allergens, Serving Sizes and Dual Columns Labelling. He ended his presentation with the Bioengineered Food Disclosure elements.</p> <p>Mr. Balentine showcased product photos for visualization of all labelling information discussed. For the case of the US, grouping information is one of the solutions for small products to fit in all mandatory labelling requirements.</p>

The People's Republic of China further shared the 22 food guidelines on processed food and if the categories were sector specific. The speaker stated that labelling was focused on warnings and naming principles for cheese, milk

(condensed, fermented, pasteurized, sterilized, modified), chocolate, beverage, jelly and mineral water.

The United States on the other hand was asked about the best go to place to find information and Mr. Balentine advised to check the references included in his presentation.

Japan and Thailand were given the chance to address language barriers and the emerging technology in language translation at lower cost. Ms. Thesasilpa proposed and expressed the need to have the best practice sharing among economies.

The common challenges and errors being encountered by MSMEs when complying with labelling requirements were addressed to The Russian Federation, Chile and Malaysia. Mr. Bobrovskiy said that MSMEs burden the understanding and compliance of numerous mandated requirements including all laws and technical regulations which were hard to meet. Ms. Nizar shared about the offenses related to re-labelling where recommendations will be given and services are offered by the Food Safety and Quality Division of the Ministry of Health as errors and rejects result additional costs to MSMEs. Ms. Grandon mentioned that knowledge and skills require measures and trainings. Chile has implemented training in MSMEs through regional offices from 2019 to 2020. Their agency also recommended a social media campaign.

Session 6: Sharing Key Results and Findings of Pre-Conference Survey on APEC Packaging and Labelling Requirements for Pre-packaged Food Products

This session presented the specific laws and regulations of responding economies in terms of requirements across the region and a validation of what has been presented in Session 5. This recent survey is a follow up to the previous 2015 survey, and incorporated new areas of interest with regard to food packaging and labelling such as technological advances to sustainable and green packaging, use of recycled packaging, digital labelling technologies including QR codes and smart labelling for traceability and regulations concerning the food information for products offered through e-commerce.

SPEAKER	PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS
<p>Dr. Romulo Romero CEO & Principal Consultant OTi Philippines, Inc. Associate, Institute for Solidarity in Asia Partnership Adviser, Local Government Unit Trade & Investment Promotion Desk (Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry)</p>	<p>Dr. Romero discussed the results of the survey which was composed of 4 major sections namely: labelling requirements, packaging requirements, innovations and assistance to business.</p> <p>The presentation outlined the questions in the survey and the summary of responses from the member economies. The comparison of 2015 and 2020 surveys was also presented. Based on the results, it was evident that different member economies have different regulations. When asked about the general observed trend, Dr. Romero emphasized that harmonization remains a challenge, thus generating a matrix containing the different regulations is recommended to provide an easy reference for the benefit of member economies.</p> <p><i>“In order to address issues regarding pre-packaged food packaging and labelling for MSMEs, it is recommended that APEC continues to provide a forum for member economies to exchange relevant information regarding food packaging and labelling, especially the latest innovation and trends in sustainable packaging and food labelling as well as promote the integration of MSMEs by providing capacity building support to the member economies. This can be done through e-learning programs, providing skills standards and skill certification programs.”</i></p>

**Session 7: Panel Discussion
Challenges and opportunities in food packaging and labelling requirements across the world and in APEC**

This session focused on the challenges and opportunities in food packaging and labelling requirements across the world, highlighting those in the APEC region. The speakers shared the challenges they experience, ranging from language barriers to mandatory requirements. Opportunities with regard to packaging and labelling from their perspective were also presented and discussed.

SPEAKERS	PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS
<p>Mr. Dominic Milan Chief Sales Officer 1Export The Philippines</p>	<p>Mr. Milan stressed the difficulty of product packaging and labelling. He talked about the Basics of Packaging and the Challenges encountered by MSMEs namely: minimum production capacity, high MOQ for packaging, technical knowledge and determining which markets to enter. He also outlined how the business of 1Export works as a one-stop end to end platform for cross border trade and fulfillment services.</p> <p>On what APEC can do in facilitating trade:</p> <p><i>“In facilitating trade, I think if there’s a way to harmonize the packaging requirements - probably the different economies in APEC - can design their packaging or require packaging in their local markets that are also applicable to the different economies where they plan to export, so in that way, manufacturers can produce products that are both compliant not just in their local economies, but also in the other importing economies.”</i></p>
<p>Ms. Anna Teo Group CEO Hernan Corporation Sdn Bhd Malaysia</p>	<p>Ms. Teo is the CEO of Hernan Corporation whose main export product is Durian. As one of the MSMEs in Malaysia, one of the most evident struggles in their experience is the language barrier across the region and the variety of requirements of different member economies. She also shared information on their company’s product labelling and ended her presentation with details on product registration.</p> <p>On what APEC can do in facilitating trade:</p> <p><i>“I propose to establish a committee or center from all economies where every private sector can directly ask questions or check the regulations on packaging and labelling to get correct information.”</i></p>
<p>Ms. Kathreen Ann Ocampo Marketing Director RPO Fine Food Corporation The Philippines</p>	<p>Ms. Ocampo introduced RPO Fine Food Corporation which started as a home-based business in 1999 and later on incorporated under Philippine SEC in 2013. List of products include WOW Mani, WOW Kasoy and WOW Bawang which are available in the United States, Canada and Middle East. Their products are Philippine FDA Certified, Halal Certified and US FDA Facility Registered.</p> <p>She outlined the packaging challenges encountered such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulties complying with international standards and government regulations Strong market competition High cost of packaging equipment and eco-friendlier packaging materials Marketing and Branding constraints Changing consumer preferences <p>Interestingly, Ms. Ocampo shared how they have made improvements in their packaging from using PVC bottle materials to a modern and minimalist look. With the assistance of DTI-EMB in upgrading product packaging, RPO was able to penetrate mainstream markets in Walmart, USA and Lulu Supermarket, Dubai. She also mentioned utilizing social media and online platforms for marketing.</p> <p><i>“The Philippine SMEs still need a lot of assistance from the government and private organizations to overcome the packaging and labelling challenges. We fervently hope that through the APEC</i></p>

	<p><i>conference we can impart our wish to align domestic labelling and packaging regulations with the international standards to be able to export our products globally. We also look forward to learning the latest trends and innovations on sustainable and eco-friendly packaging.”</i></p>
<p>Mr. Andrew Stephens Senior Policy Advisor at the United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA/FAS)</p>	<p>Mr. Stephens’ presentation was centered on Plastic Packaging Sustainability: Emerging Trends in Regulations. He cited information about USDA Foreign Agricultural Service which is centered on programs and services, trade policy, trade promotion, capacity building and data & analysis. He also talked about the Ocean Plastic Pollution Crisis, Circular Economy with the concept of reduce, re-use, recycle and Civil Society Activities – advocacy, beach litter “Brand Audits” and supporting legislative action.</p> <p>Mr. Stephens also outlined the 2019 EU Single-Use Plastic Ban based on Beach Litter Surveys, Plastic Resin Identification Codes and the Challenges in Recycling Multinational Flexible Packaging.</p> <p>Important to note were the regulatory initiative examples: bans or restrictions on single-use plastics, mandatory recycled content, extended producer responsibility.</p> <p>Lastly, he shared the USDA/FAS Activities such as participation in interagency coordination, WTO engagement, stakeholder outreach and learning agenda including the USDA GAIN reports on Food Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS).</p> <p><i>“Wicked problems require multiple solutions. For plastic pollution, this will include regulatory and non-regulatory measures. Civil societies and consumers are already calling for the reduction in the use of plastic packaging and consumer brands are beginning to respond.”</i></p>
<p>Ms. Teresa LO Yee Yi Programme Lead ASEAN Food and Beverage Alliance (AFBA) Singapore</p>	<p>Ms. Lo discussed the Labelling Requirements and Impact on Trade and the Opportunities around Digital Labelling. She cited that AFBA consists of National Associations in South East Asia involved in the food sector.</p> <p>Harmonization is the DNA of AFBA and reflects the spirit of CODEX: consumer safety – protect public health, free flow of goods – promote market access and fair trade – increase competitiveness.</p> <p>Case study on addressing non-harmonization of nutrition labelling in 2017-2018.</p> <p>Regulatory landscape of Back-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling</p> <p>The presentation highlighted the following: Regulatory development of food labelling with the concept of embedding product information in QR codes or Bar codes; Potential solutions through Digital Product Identities; The role of harmonization in improving markets.</p> <p><i>“Moving forward, we can consider: firstly of course, industry readiness and whether companies are well-versed with how the infrastructure looks like. Secondly, adaptation from countries. There comes a need for a common understanding about this technology and how countries can also come together and evaluate the acceptance of whether digital product identities could be incorporated in the long term. Last but not the least, there is also a potential risk as it is an online platform with the possibility of cybersecurity issues or internet</i></p>

	<i>security issues. So that's something to think about as well."</i>
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Mr. Khemraj Ramful (ITC), Senior Adviser on Export Quality Management, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business joined the panel discussion.

The first question was addressed to ITC regarding the technical or financial assistance they provide to MSMEs to comply with non-tariff barriers or if none, other programs to complement ITC's work or identify which organization has programs. Mr. Ramful initially defined ITC as the joint organization with the United Nations and the WTO which is fully dedicated to the internationalization of MSMEs. ITC implements many trade technical programs and projects across the world both at institutional level and enterprise level. He emphasized that ITC constantly conducts business surveys in more than 70 countries and these surveys revealed that more than 50% of difficulties faced by MSMEs relate to technical requirements including packaging and labelling which can be categorized as:

- Access to information and understanding the market requirements
- Capacity of MSMEs themselves to comply with the requirements
- Access to competent and recognized conformity services such as testing services and certification services
- Regulatory framework of the country and non-harmonized requirements

Mr. Ramful further stressed the help ITC extends in addressing these challenges through system maps (300 sustainable standards) and self-assessment compliance of different technical requirements; capacity building support such as training a pool of experts and coach them to support enterprises to meet standards; testing laboratories and accreditation services; national quality policies to strengthen the technical regulatory framework. ITC projects are funded by different donors like The EU, etc.

Next question was addressed to Mr. Stephens regarding the impact of regulations on MSMEs due to the on-going consciousness for sustainability. He pointed out that a lot of challenges will arise if regulations are not harmonized or ambiguous or the implementation period is too short. This is the real challenge for new packaging to comply with the requirements, new rules are coming out and there is uncertainty on how they will work on all products - ex. France has banned all plastic packaging for fresh foods as well as the small stickers on fresh fruits and vegetables.

All speakers from the private sector were asked the same question on the main reason why export products are rejected based on packaging and labelling requirements.

Mr. Milan cited that reasons were the ones mentioned earlier in his presentation such as product name, brand name, country of origin, ingredients and nutrition facts table. Presenting the ingredients is highly technical, specific and should be in the language of the exporting economy and this is a problem to MSMEs.

Ms. Teo said they have not encountered rejection problems so far because as she has presented, they take the extra caution before exporting their products. Although she believes that key components for rejection are not following the information on the packaging or putting substances not acceptable in the economy. She also suggested that MSMEs must start the move to using food grade biodegradable packaging including the product quality printing.

Ms. Ocampo gave two reasons: packaging labels on the ingredients - ex. Philippines' regulation uses iodized salt but some economies do not accept iodized salt as an ingredient; the price should be more competitive than their existing products in the market.

Ms. Lo added that aside from the food safety problems, non-food safety issues should also be checked such as the fulfillment of different importation documentation requirements of economies.

Another question was addressed again to the all private sector Speakers on what the business sector can suggest to make trade easier across borders and what can APEC do to facilitate trade.

Mr. Milan talked about harmonization of packaging requirements in different economies. He added that member economies can probably design packaging in their local markets that is also applicable to other importing economies.

Ms. Teo pointed out the possibility of forming a regulation committee or center where every private sector can direct questions and get the correct information. She also cited on alignment of expectations and education out of various regulations – ex. same ingredient but only comes in different terminology.

Ms. Ocampo agreed with Ms. Teo to have a centralized regulatory body to ask for requirements and hopeful for alignment

of standards in packaging and labelling requirements.

Ms. Lo mentioned about the adoption of CODEX standards and looks forward to coming years such as considering new domains in collective guidance – ex. rise of e-commerce.

Mr. Ramful and Mr. Stephens were given the opportunity to share their final comments. Mr. Ramful's message centralized on MSMEs as the most hit whenever there are changes in the technical requirements. He pointed out that many economies have not updated their regulations to align with international standards because they have limited technical infrastructure to technical certifications. He also advised regulators to set a pool of regional packaging experts and improve access to finance and research & development.

Mr. Stephens on the other hand focused on understanding the plastic packaging. Implementing changes in packaging proves to be difficult since there is a need to change all of the equipment on the packaging line as well. The need for the development of standards on the type of plastics to be used was raised and it was recommended to look into the guidelines in designing plastic packaging from the USDA/FAS Association of Plastic Recyclers.

The session was wrapped up by the moderator, Assistant Secretary of the Consumer Protection Group, Atty. Ann Claire C. Cabochan.

“Indeed, the matter of packaging of food products must be able to hurdle, not only technical requirements, but also ensure safety and differing levels of handling along the way. But it must always be considered that when we do use packaging, we must also look at how it impacts our environment, because if we only look at what we are going to eat, when we do not have a planet to live on, the food is going to be useless.”

Closing remarks were given by Undersecretary Abdulgani M. Macatoman, DTI-Trade Promotions Group.

“We must act collectively to reduce technical barriers to trade and enhance market access through standards and conformance by actively participating in international standardization activities and regulatory processes. Through APEC, we can promote and support initiatives such as this conference to exchange important information that ensures a transparent trade environment for greater economic cooperation.”

E. PRE/POST EVALUATION OF THE CONFERENCE

The purpose of this pre/post conference evaluation was to collect feedback and knowledge gained from the conference.

The respondents were invited to share the level of satisfaction of the conference including quality and relevance of the objective, agenda and topics, speakers and their content, organizing of the conference, materials distributed, time allocated, level of knowledge improvement, and whether the conference achieved the objectives.

RESULTS

a. FEEDBACK

There were 44 registered respondents who answered the feedback form. It could be observed from Figure 19, that almost all of the respondents visited the event to attend the conference, while some wanted to find out the latest trends in the packaging industry, look for potential business opportunities, and meet potential suppliers.

REASONS FOR VISITING THE EVENT

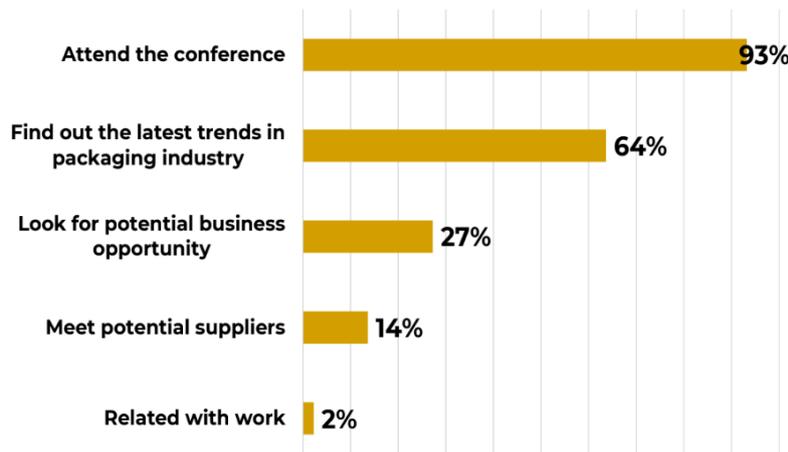


Figure 20. Reasons for visiting the event.

Note: Respondents can choose more than one.

It is important to note that only 19% gave their feedback and evaluation.

The following are the consolidated comments from the respondents:

- The speakers were very knowledgeable with the topics they discussed and the information they shared were all relevant.
- The platform was accessible, easy to navigate, and the overall virtual experience was very good.
- The exhibit hall was also very interesting and informative.
- Effective delivery of the content of the conference was observed.
- The information was delivered and presented in an organized manner.

Points for improvement suggested by the respondents include the following:

- Internet connection and communication (audio and video) should be improved.
- Address the clarity of the shared content
- More suppliers for the exhibit hall should be available.
- Presentations should not be text-heavy and only highlight important information
- The panel discussion was very interactive and informative, thus more time should be given to facilitate a more in-depth discussion on relevant topics.
- More time should be allotted for the conference since the amount of information could be overwhelming compressed into the tight schedule.
- Address accessibility issues such as broken links and permission to change participant display name accordingly.

The overall rating for both the conference and the exhibit hall is **91.6%** which is very satisfactory, exceeding the project target satisfactory rating of **65%**.

b. KNOWLEDGE GAINED

There were a total of 27 registered respondents who answered both the pre-test and post-test. This data set was used to determine whether there is increased awareness of participants, particularly the MSMEs and industries, on the latest packaging and labelling innovations related to pre-packaged food.

Comparing the responses from the pre-test and post-test, a **25.9%** average increase in knowledge was observed. It is important to note, however, that the target percentage of knowledge gained is 50%, which means that the project was not successful in this requirement. This could be attributed to the fact that most of the respondents were already knowledgeable about the pre-packaged food packaging and labelling requirements of different APEC member economies. Moreover, the questions for the test might have lacked difficulty, thus might not have been representative of the acquired knowledge of the participants. Nevertheless, it was evident from the respondents' feedback form that the conference has provided a good medium for information sharing and that they appreciated the vast knowledge presented by the renowned speakers through their presentations and subsequent Q&A and panel discussions.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Through the conference and compendium, the project was able to achieve the following:

- (a) provide an interactive forum for economies to share their laws, regulations, best practices on packaging and labelling requirements and showcase the latest trends and developments on packaging and labelling technologies, including sustainable packaging;
- (b) increase awareness and promotion on the use of international standards on pre-packaged food to ensure food safety;
- (c) increase awareness and promotion of innovative packaging used in APEC economies to meet sustainability and environmental goals; and
- (d) provide updates on the latest discussions on packaging and labelling in the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The project was also able to promote cross-fora collaboration with the SMEWG and the SCSC as it aims to increase the transparency of regulations/policies in packaging and labelling, and integrating MSMEs into the global value chains.

In addition, this project has also involved international standardization organizations engaged in food labelling standards development activities to serve as resource speakers and experts for the project. Representatives from the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) were heavily engaged to update the group with the latest activities and guidance from CCFL.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the discussions, observations and feedback during the conference and surveys, the following proposed next steps are being offered for member economies' consideration:

- APEC must continue to serve as a forum to exchange information on requirements of sectors of mutual interest to capacitate member economies' relevant sectors including MSMEs and to ensure that information remains relevant
- APEC should continue to provide an interactive forum to promote the results of the survey through the APEC website.
- APEC member economies can explore to translate the information gathered into more effective information material, such as infomercials and handbooks for wider reach.
- APEC member economies are encouraged to harmonize technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, and base them on international standards as stipulated in the WTO-Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) agreement.
- APEC to create and maintain a directory of regulatory agencies where private sectors or economies can direct questions and get correct information regarding their concerns.
- APEC to assist in the promotion of the discussion of the use of technologies in food labelling and use of eco-labels/sustainable packaging and technical infrastructure to support these developments
- APEC to continue to promote the importance of stakeholders' participation in the international standardization process to ensure concerns are considered during the development of international standards.
- Cross-fora collaboration within APEC, and other relevant international organizations such as WTO, ITC, CAC, etc. is encouraged.