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Packaging of Meat and Meat Products

Sec. 42-115m-1. Applicability

Sections 42-115m-2 to 42-115m-7, inclusive, shall apply to fresh or frozen meat and meat products sold at retail when put up or packaged in advance of sale.

(Effective February 28, 1986)

Sec. 42-115m-2. Definitions

(a) The term “fresh meat and meat product” shall be construed to mean the part of the muscle of any cattle, sheep, swine, or goats, which is skeletal or which is found in the tongue, in the diaphragm, in the heart, or in the esophagus, with or without the accompanying and overlying fat, and the portions of bone, skin, sinew, nerve, and blood vessels which normally accompany the muscle tissue and which are not separated from it in the process of dressing, and any article which is made wholly or in part from any meat or other portion of the carcass of any cattle, sheep, swine, or goats; provided such meat or meat product has not been cured or has not been salted for preservation, and provided further that it is capable of use as human food. This term as applied to equines shall have a meaning comparable to that provided in this subsection with respect to cattle, sheep, swine, or goats.

(b) The term, “frozen meat and meat product” shall be construed to mean a fresh meat and meat product that is in a frozen state.

(c) For purposes of sections 42-115m-1 to 42-115m-7, inclusive, the term “packaged in advance of sale” shall be construed to mean fresh or frozen meat and meat product which is packaged and available to consumers for self-service selection. It shall not include meat and meat product cut and packaged on special order of a consumer, provided that such consumer has been afforded an opportunity to view and inspect the product prior to packaging.

(Effective February 28, 1986)

Sec. 42-115m-3. Packaging of meat

All fresh or frozen meat and meat products sold at retail shall, when put up or packaged in advance of sale, either: (1) have a “100% GUARANTEE” label affixed to the top of the package, in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 42-115m-7; or (2) be so wrapped as to permit the consumer to view and inspect the top and bottom of the meat prior to purchase, subject to the provisions of sections 42-115m-4 and 42-115m-5.

(Effective January 27, 1986)

Sec. 42-115m-4. Percentage of top of package which may be covered by labeling

Top or principal display surface of a package subject to section 42-115m-3 may be covered by labeling and other descriptive matter which the seller may wish to affix to the package only in conformance with the following specifications:

(i) Not more than 10% of a top surface area of 60 square inches or more; provided, the covered area shall not exceed eight (8) square inches.

(ii) Not more than 12% of a top surface area of 50 square inches or more and less than 60 square inches.

(iii) Not more than 15% and of a top surface area of 40 square inches or more and less than 50 square inches.

(iv) Not more than 20% of a top surface area of 30 square inches or more and less than 40 square inches.

(v) Not more than 25% of a top surface area of less than 30 square inches.

(Effective November 4, 1975)

Sec. 42-115m-5. Percentage of bottom meat surface which must be visible

If the retailer does not affix a label to the top of the package in accordance with the provisions of sec. 42-115m-7, then such retailer shall put up or package the meat or meat product so that at least seventy percent of the meat surface on the bottom or non-label side of the package is visible. Such visibility shall be uniformly distributed. This should not be construed to preclude greater than seventy percent visibility of the bottom or non-label side of the package.

(Effective February 28, 1986)

Sec. 42-115m-6. Exemptions

In addition to ground meat and liver which are exempted by section 42-115m (b) of the general statutes, sausage products which are made from ground or chopped meat, and not otherwise exempt from the definition of fresh meat and meat product, and stew beef shall be exempt from the requirements of section 42-115m-5.

(Effective February 28, 1986)

Sec. 42-115m-7. "100% GUARANTEE" label

If the retailer does not put up or package the meat or meat product in accordance with sec. 42-115m-5, with seventy percent bottom visibility, then the retailer shall affix a label stating that the meat has a "100% GUARANTEE" to the top of each such package.

The label bearing the words "100% GUARANTEE" shall be affixed in accordance with either of the following methods. Such label shall be either:

(1) printed on the price label of the package, with the words "100% GUARANTEE" in letters at least $\frac{1}{8}$ " high and in contrasting color to the label; or

(2) applied to the top of the package with a pressure sensitive orange label or sticker. Said label or sticker shall be at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ " high. The words "100% GUARANTEE" shall be in black letters and the letters shall be at least $\frac{1}{8}$ " high.

(Effective February 28, 1986)