

50. The labeling of food products in Romania and Ukraine

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Introduction. This paper presents a comparison between some Romanian and Ukrainian food products with analyses of information provided by labels. We chose the same products that could be found both in Romania and Ukraine and we investigated especially the list of ingredients and nutritional facts written on the labels. We observed that some local products do not have mentioned on their labels the nutritional facts, this aspect being more frequent to Ukrainian products. Even though some products belong to international food chains, in Ukraine it is very hard to read the labels of some products because of the fact that these are not translated in an international circulation language,

comparing to Romania, where the products have the label translated in international known language, with some exceptions of some local products.

Materials and methods. We used three different food products that could be found both in Romania and Ukraine, belonging to international food products chain. The products: carbonated soft drink, chips and biscuits. We analysed the labels and we compared the list of ingredients, nutritional facts and how they respect the national and international food labels regulations.

Results and discussion. In Romania, the labeling standard and food safety is established by the Regulations No 106/2002, No. 150/2004 and No. 685/2009.

In Ukraine, the labeling standard and food safety is regulated through Technical Regulations of Ukraine № 487 (from 28.10.2010)

In the European Union, the food safety and labeling standard is assured by: Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006, No 1333/2008, No 1169/2011 and No 432/2012. With the respect of the European Regulation (EC) No 1169/2011, Article 9, food labels must contain the following information:

- The name of the food;
- The list of ingredients;
- Any ingredient or processing aid or derived from a substance or product causing allergies or intolerances used in the manufacture or preparation of a food and still present in the finished products, even in an altered form;
- The quantity of certain ingredients or categories of ingredients;
- The net quantity of the food;
- The date of minimum durability or the use by date;
- Any special storage conditions and/or conditions of use;
- The name or business name and address of the food business operator;
- The country of origin or place of provenance;
- Instructions for use where it be difficult to make appropriate use of the food in the absence of such instructions;
- The actual alcoholic strength by volume, if it exceeds 1,2% by volume of alcohol;
- A nutrition declaration.

Each category of food may contain other additional information.

These conditions are specified both in Romanian and Ukrainian regulations. All the information must be written at least in the national language of each state.

All the labels investigated contain the information required by the Romanian, Ukrainian and European regulations.

The labels differ in those two countries, but contain similar information. The lists of ingredients for the same product are in some cases with differences, that lead to different values for nutritional facts. All the nutritional values do not exceed the daily values recommended and are very useful for consumers, for nutritional calculations in order to have a healthy diet.

The ingredients used in all the case reports are accepted by the national regulations.

The labels are written in the national language, and could be difficult for foreigners to read them.

Regarding labels' design, in all three comparison cases we can find the same logo for each product, but with information arranged different. By showing the nutritional facts in the front part of the label (chips' case), the product's details are easier to be read.

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Referenses

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