

Extending the Nutrition Facts Panel Compliance Date to Benefit from FDA Guidance and Harmonize with Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard Deadline

Additional Time Is Necessary

We support the recent decision by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to extend the compliance date for rules requiring changes to the Nutrition Facts Panel (NFP). We appreciate recent statements from FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue acknowledging the need to harmonize the NFP compliance date with the bioengineered food disclosure standard, which is under development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The previous NFP compliance deadline of July 26, 2018 needs to be extended for several reasons:

- **Lack of Guidance:** FDA has not issued final guidance for several changes to the NFP labels, including 'added sugars' and 'dietary fibers.' The guidance is important for ensuring accuracy.
- **Lack of Time:** Food manufacturers told FDA they would need a compliance timeline of three to five years. The previous Administration allowed only two years to comply.
- **Lack of Capacity:** There is limited label vendor capacity to accommodate all companies making changes before the previous compliance date. Larger companies typically take precedence in the queue, which would negatively impact small businesses.
- **Cost Savings:** An extension could save industry over \$1.8 billion, given FDA's own Regulatory Impact Analysis showed costs of \$4.6 billion and \$2.8 billion with two-year and four-year compliance timeframes, respectively.

Regulatory Reform Achieved Through Harmonization

The statutory deadline for the bioengineered food disclosure standard is July 29, 2018. Like the NFP rules, this new standard will require a major overhaul of food product labels. Now that FDA has made the decision to extend the NFP compliance date, the agency should coordinate its work on NFP with USDA's work on the bioengineered food disclosure standard. FDA can provide regulatory relief by harmonizing the dates so food manufacturers implementing these two changes only have to re-label once, not twice. Such harmonization would mean an additional \$1.7 billion in savings for food manufacturers. In addition to the reasons listed above, harmonization is important for several reasons:

- **Efficiency:** The process for implementing label changes is complex and time-consuming, and typically takes years. Consolidating two separate processes into one will save food manufacturers time and eliminate duplicity.
- **Economic Impact:** The cumulative economic impact would be "substantial" if the two compliance deadlines are not harmonized. Eliminating unnecessary, duplicative cost is consistent with the agenda of this Administration.
- **Reduce Complexity:** Hundreds of thousands of products have been marketed since the last NFP update. Duplicative label changes for all products would be inordinately complex for manufacturers to juggle, and consumers to absorb, if done back-to-back instead of simultaneously.

Our Commitment to Transparency and Accuracy

We wish to be very clear – food manufacturers support providing consumers clear information to help them make informed choices, and we are committed to implementing the labeling rules. Harmonization, as opposed to extending one labeling deadline to a different arbitrary time, is critically important to help us re-label accurately and, most importantly, help us meet consumer demand efficiently.



- [About »](#)
- [Meetings »](#)
- [Committees »](#)
- [News & Resources »](#)
- [Education »](#)
- [Economic Impact](#)
- [Take Action](#)
- [Political »](#)

511

ABA Applauds FDA For Signaling a Reasonable Nutrition Label Implementation Timeline

June 15, 2017

by Amy-Gabrielle Bartolac

Comments are off

Bakers applaud the Trump Administration for signaling a more reasonable timeline for implementation of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Nutrition Facts Label rule.

"Allocating a more reasonable timeline will help bakers, especially small suppliers and bakers, meet the goal of providing consumers with the nutrition information needed to make healthy and informed decisions about their diets," said ABA President and CEO Robb MacKie. "Most importantly, it will provide consumers with tools to reduce the confusion around food labels."

Due to myriad labeling changes, bakers and other food manufacturers have been seeking a common-sense implementation timeframe to diffuse consumer confusion. Bakers, specifically, are still awaiting final guidance on both dietary fiber and new added sugars labeling requirements that are necessary to make the required changes.

"Bakers are eager to receive complete information and final guidance from FDA so that we are able to get started with nutrition labeling revisions to provide clear, concise information for American consumers," added Lee Sanders, ABA Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Public Affairs.

About the Author

Social Share



Latest News



Allied Member in the Spotlight
MOI Foods USA Inc

Aug 16, 2017



Visit ABA for Brief Educational
Sessions and Reception

Aug 16, 2017



ABA's Stronger Together Tour
Team Journeys Across the
Country to Visit Members

Aug 16, 2017



The ABA Salary and Benefits
Survey is Here!

Aug 16, 2017

About Us

The American Bakers Association is the leading trade association for the baking industry.

601 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 230
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 789-0300
info@americanbakers.org

Twitter @AmericanBakers

Pocket leadership takeaways from Navy Veteran and Leadership Specialist at the NextGenBaker Public Policy Forum DC
[#https://t.co/isNDeJkfx9](https://t.co/isNDeJkfx9)

Looking forward to building as 1 an association and as an industry!
#WelcomeToABA @unitedfoodco

Contact Us

Name

Email

Message

Quick Links

Home

About

Staff List

Meeting Calendar



NEWS:

For Immediate Release
June 13, 2017

Contact:
Roger Lowe
202-295-3954

GMA Applauds FDA's Intention to Extend Compliance Date for Nutrition Facts Panel Update

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) today applauded the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) announced intention to extend the compliance date for label changes to the Nutrition Facts Panel (NFP) on food and beverage products.

FDA issued the final regulation in May 2016, more than a year ago, requiring revisions to the Nutrition Facts Panel by July 2018. The agency has not yet issued vitally important final guidance on added sugars and dietary fibers that is essential for companies to make label updates. Today, FDA announced that it was extending the original July 2018 deadline. The extension allows the federal agency to complete the necessary final guidance documents and gives companies adequate time to make the Nutrition Facts Panel revisions.

"FDA's common-sense decision will reduce consumer confusion and costs," said Pamela G. Bailey, GMA's president and CEO. "Food and beverage manufacturers are committed to giving consumers the information and tools they need to make informed choices, such as by updating the Nutrition Facts Panel. But the fast-approaching compliance deadline was virtually impossible to meet without the needed final guidance documents from FDA. FDA's extension is both reasonable and practical."

##

The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) is the trade organization representing the world's leading food, beverage and consumer products companies and associated partners. The U.S. food, beverage and consumer packaged goods industry plays a unique role as the single largest U.S. manufacturing employment sector, with 2.1 million jobs in 30,000 communities across the country that deliver products vital to the wellbeing of people in our nation and around world. Founded in 1908, GMA has a primary focus on product safety, science-based public policies and industry initiatives that seek to empower people with the tools and information they need to make informed choices and lead healthier lives. For more information, visit gmaonline.org.

1250 H Street NW, Suite 900

Washington, DC 20005

P: 202.737.4332 | F: 202.331.7820

WWW.IDFA.ORG



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Peggy Armstrong
(202) 220-3508
parmstrong@idfa.org

IDFA Appreciates FDA Extension on Nutrition Facts Label Compliance

(Washington, D.C. – June 13, 2017) The International Dairy Foods Association appreciates the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) announced intention to extend the compliance dates for the new Nutrition Facts label and Serving Size rules.

“On behalf of our members, we thank the Food and Drug Administration for extending the compliance timeline for the new Nutrition Facts label and Serving Size rules. Dairy foods companies are committed to giving consumers the information they need to make informed choices, and appreciate the extra time to be sure that the information on the labels is complete and accurate,” said Cary Frye, IDFA vice president of regulatory and scientific affairs.

In the past, IDFA has urged government officials to align the compliance dates for the Nutrition Facts label changes with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s disclosure standard for bioengineered foods, which is required by law to be issued by July 2018. Having two separate compliance deadlines would require food and beverage manufacturers to go through the expensive and time-consuming process of changing the label twice on every food package in the United States.

“Our member companies are hopeful that once FDA announces the new implementation timeline they will be able to avoid the confusion and extra cost incurred by changing their product labels twice – first to comply with the changes to the Nutrition Facts label and again when the U.S. Department of Agriculture specifies how genetically engineered foods and ingredients need to be labeled.”

Although FDA announced its intention to extend the Nutrition Facts label compliance date to provide additional time for implementation, no timeline was set. FDA said it will provide details of the extension through a Federal Register notice at a later time.

###

The International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA), Washington, D.C., represents the nation's dairy manufacturing and marketing industries and their suppliers with a membership of nearly 525 companies within a \$125-billion a year industry. IDFA is composed of three constituent organizations: the Milk Industry Foundation (MIF), the National Cheese Institute (NCI) and the International Ice Cream Association (IICA). IDFA's nearly 200 dairy processing members operate more than 600 manufacturing facilities and range from large multi-national organizations to single-plant companies. Together they represent more than 85 percent of the milk, cultured products, cheese, ice cream and frozen desserts produced and marketed in the United States. Visit IDFA at www.idfa.org.



SNAC International Statement on FDA's Extension of Nutrition Facts Labeling Deadline

SNAC International applauds FDA's decision to provide additional time for food manufacturers to implement the changes to the Nutrition Facts Panel (NFP). To be clear, our members are committed to improving consumers' access to nutrition information – but they need adequate time to make these updates, and final guidance from FDA, before they can begin the process of changing their labels. Small and mid-sized family companies – including many of our members – would have been hit the hardest by the previous, unworkable deadline. We are hopeful the new timeline will harmonize the NFP update with the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard labeling rules, which will also impact a majority of food products in the marketplace today. Coordinating these wide-sweeping updates is a common-sense solution that saves time and money and prevents consumer confusion that would undoubtedly arise with back-to-back labeling changes.

Contact:
Elizabeth Avery
President & CEO
eavery@snacintl.org

1600 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 650 | Arlington, Virginia 22209
Tel: 703.836.4500 | Fax: 703.836.8262 | Web: www.sfa.org

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)