

Summary (Republic of China, Taiwan)

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There are 5,567 food & beverage factories in Taiwan. The number of food companies with business registration in Taiwan is 6,399. Most of the food industries are small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or family industries which do not need to register, and it was estimated at least more than 67,000.

Under the premise of food safety, to provide consumers with clearly identified information, Taiwan's food industry is governed by the Act Governing Food Sanitation (Promulgated on January 28, 1975, the latest amended and promulgated was on August 8, 2012). According to the Act Governing Food Sanitation, Department of Health (DOH) in Taiwan were also promulgated the regulation on food labeling, nutrition labeling, nutrition claims for prepackaged foods. Other material facts designated by the central competent authority in a public notice, such as "Label of Content for Packed Fruit Juice and Vegetable Juice", "Labeling Content of Caffeine on Pre-packaged Beverages", "Vegetable Food Labeling", "Labeling for Vacuum Packed Food, Blended Oil, Instant Noodles, Reduced Sodium Salt, Food Containing Cordyceps Mycelium" and label of country of origin for prepackaged foods.

The central competent authority require food labeling showing country of origin in Chinese on specific food products supplied at food vending locations. For specific bulk food vendors, the central competent authority also require food labeling showing product name, country of origin in Chinese.

There's no prior preview for food labeling and advertising but the industry must follow the regulations and truthfully label the products base on the spirit of self-management. Some SMEs are prone to misunderstand the food labeling regulations due to different degrees of recognition. The DOH needs to hold many industry education and training programs to guide the industries how to follow up these practices and regulations.

The Cabinet-level Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) is working on a system to label the carbon footprints of consumption products as part of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The new labeling program, from Taiwan's Environmental Protection Administration, start to plan to label the carbon footprint of common consumer prepackaged foods such as beverages and cookies.