

2006-COMPLIANT FOOD LABELS

By January 1, 2006, all food products labeled for sale in the U.S. must comply with new FDA requirements for trans fat and food allergen labeling. Call on Food Consulting Company now to update your labels.

What is required by January 1, 2006?

There are two new requirements:

- 1 - Trans fat declaration on the Nutrition Facts label.
- 2 - Ingredient Statement that is compliant with new food allergen labeling laws.

How do I get the trans fat value of my product?

Based on your formula and ingredient specification sheets, Food Consulting Company calculates this for you.

Do I have to update the Nutrition Facts label if my product does not contain trans fat?

Yes. If the trans fat value is 0, this must be declared on the Nutrition Facts label.

My product qualifies for a "simplified Nutrition Facts" and has a 0 value for total. Do I still have to report trans fat?

No, this type of Nutrition Facts label does not have to be revised to include a 0 value for trans fat. However, you must still consider if your product contains or has been in contact with any of the eight major allergens; if so, your Ingredient Statement must be revised to indicate this.

What information is needed to assure that my Ingredient Statement complies with the new law?

An ingredient specification sheet for each raw material used in the production of the product is needed. Food Consulting Company will develop a compliant Ingredient/Allergen Statement based on the spec sheets, and include a statement about the possible unintentional presence of food allergens due to equipment sharing or other manufacturing practices when indicated by you or tested at our laboratory.

What food allergens must be considered to prepare a compliant Ingredient Statement?

The new allergen law identifies eight allergens, and industry frequently refers to those as the "Big 8." They are milk, eggs, wheat, soybeans, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, and shellfish. If a food or ingredient in a food contains or has been in contact with any of the "big eight" allergens, the Ingredient Statement for this product must indicate this as specified by the new law.

How do I get the trans fat and allergen information on the product label?

Food Consulting Company provides you with the compliant print-ready label components; you provide these to your printer or package designer for placement into the label artwork.

When should I get started?

The sooner the better; you definitely want the information ready for your upcoming or next print run. Remember, your products must carry compliant labels by January 1, 2006.

How much will it cost?

A formatted Nutrition Facts label with trans fat and accurate values for all required nutrients is \$xxx. Ingredient/Allergen Statements are \$xxx.

Where can I access the FDA documents that explain the new requirements?

For trans fat labeling, see www.fda.gov/oc/initiatives/transfat.

For food allergen labeling, see <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/alrguid4.html>.

How can I stay informed on government actions for food labels?

Subscribe to [Food Label News](#), a free monthly email publication by Food Consulting Company.

Can I get started right away?

Yes. You have three choices to do this.

- 1- Place an [online order](#).
- 2- [Print the forms for offline ordering](#) and fax the completed forms to 800-522-3545.
- 3- [Contact us](#) for more information.