



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

CFIA Regulatory & Policy Initiatives Affecting Food Labelling

OFPA Meeting :: April 15, 2021



Canada

Purpose

- To provide an update on key ongoing priorities related to food labelling and composition

Food Product Innovation Regulations

Formerly the Food Labelling Modernization Regulations

- FPI will make changes to FDR and SFCR. As the FLM these regulations were pre-published in June 2019.
- Scoped down in summer 2020 to remove all mandatory label changes and refocus on innovation, streamlining and removing duplicative or outdated requirements.
- Final regulations are being drafted and expected date for final publication is fall 2021.

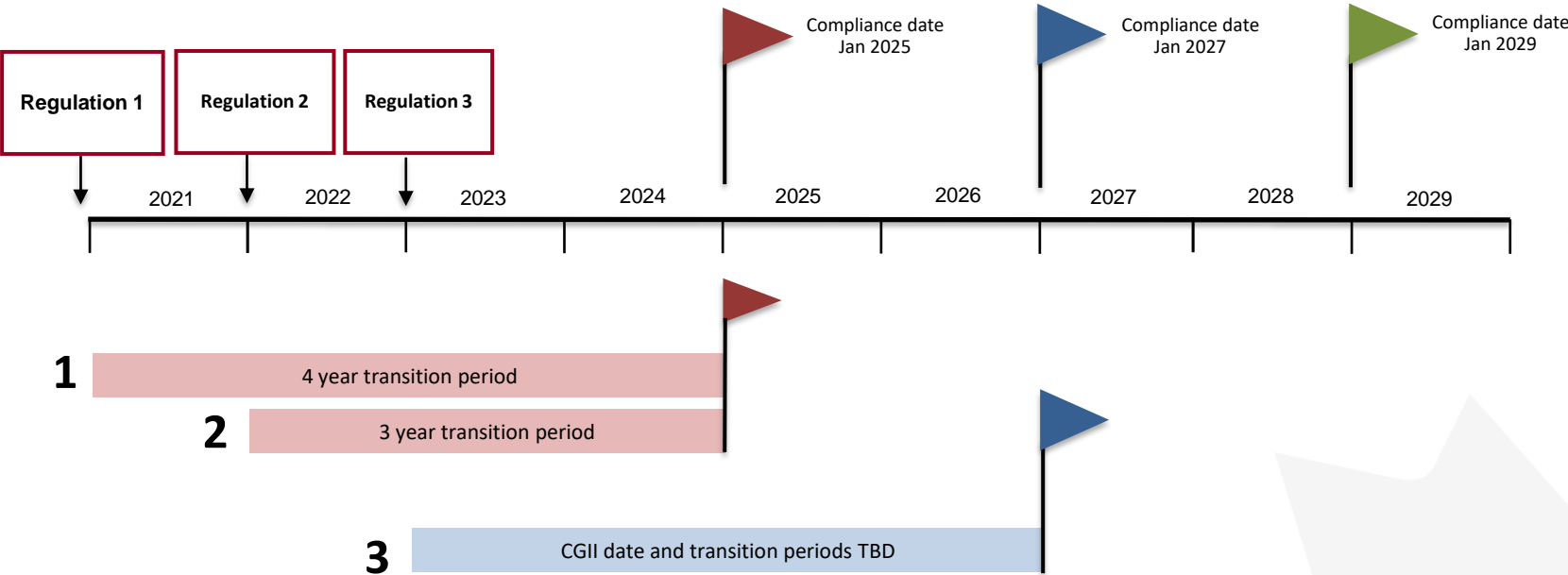
Example: FPI will support innovation by repealing some container sizes and IbR the rest

Food Labelling Coordination

- Industry stakeholders want more predictable timelines for the coming into effect of proposed CFIA and HC label changes.
- A joint policy statement was consulted on between February and April 3, 2021. The policy proposed:
 - Fixed compliance dates every two years, with a minimum of two years for coming into force
 - An interdepartmental labelling coordination process

Example: Predictable, coordinated label changes will allow more efficient business planning for industry. See Annex.

Draft Calendar for Planned Initiatives



Simulated Meat and Poultry Consultation

- From November 3 – December 3, 2020 the CFIA held an online consultation on:
 - proposed updates to the guidelines for industry on simulated meat and simulated poultry products; and
 - consumers' views and familiarity with simulated plant-based products.
- No change is proposed to the current regulations, clearer guidelines will better CFIA and stakeholders in their understanding and application of the regulatory requirements.
- Publication of a 'What we Heard Report' and revised guidance is planned for Spring 2021.
- This consultation will inform future analysis of plant-based protein foods that are intended to substitute for dairy and egg products.

Example: Guidelines distinguish between simulated meat which has specific nutritional and labelling rules (e.g. “contains no meat” on label) and plant based protein foods that are not marketed as meat substitutes without such rules

Incorporation by Reference of FDR food compositional standards

- CFIA and HC jointly administer food compositional standards in the *Food and Drug Regulations* (FDR)
- Under the Agri-food and Agriculture Regulatory Review Roadmap, HC and CFIA are modernizing the FDR, including the incorporation by reference (IBR) of compositional food standards.
- The of IBR will enable efficient and timely updates to hundreds of food compositional standards in order to harmonize more closely with trading partners; enable product innovation; and facilitate the inter-provincial trade and importation of foods.
- Prepublication in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I planned for Fall 2021.

Example: Alcoholic beverages, spices, flour and bakery products all have FDR standards that would move to IbR

Health Canada Labelling Requirements

- Health Canada sets health and safety labelling requirements. CFIA implements these and is responsible for compliance and enforcement.
- Finalized HC labelling file, in transition and implementation phase: Nutrition Labelling (2016 FDR amendments)
- A five-year transition period ends in December 2021. Due to COVID-19 CFIA focus on education and compliance promotion until December 2022.
- As of December 15, 2022 CFIA will verify compliance and apply enforcement discretion in cases where non-compliant companies have detailed plans showing how they intend to meet the new requirements at the earliest possible time.

Example: changes to list of ingredients (legibility, sugars grouping) and nutrition facts table contents

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