



DEAS 1246: 2024

ICS :67.230

## DRAFT EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

---

General standard for labelling non-retails container for foods

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

---



### Copyright notice

This EAC document is copyright-protected by EAC. While the reproduction of this document by participants in the EAC standards development process is permitted without prior permission from EAC, neither this document nor any extract from it may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form for any other purpose without prior written permission from EAC.

Requests for permission to reproduce this document for the purpose of selling it should be addressed as shown below or to EAC's member body in the country of the requester:

© East African Community 2023 — All rights reserved  
East African Community  
P.O. Box 1096,  
Arusha  
Tanzania  
Tel: + 255 27 2162100  
Fax: + 255 27 2162190  
E-mail: [eac@eachq.org](mailto:eac@eachq.org)  
Web: [www.eac-quality.net](http://www.eac-quality.net)

Reproduction for sales purposes may be subject to royalty payments or a licensing agreement. Violators may be prosecuted.

DEAS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS ONLY

Contents

Foreword..... v

1. Scope ..... 1

2. Normative references ..... 1

3. Terms and definitions..... 1

“Food business” ..... 1

“Non-retail container” ..... 2

4. General principles..... 2

5. Mandatory information requirements on the label..... 3

5.1 The name of the food ..... 3

5.2 Lot identification..... 3

5.3 Date marking and storage instructions ..... 3

5.3.1 -date marking ..... 3

5.3.2 -storage instructions ..... 3

5.4 Identification of a non-retail container ..... 4

5.5 Name and address..... 4

6. Mandatory information requirements by means other than on the label..... 4

7. Provisions for specific types of non-retail containers..... 5

8. Presentation of information ..... 5

8.1 General..... 5

8.2 Language ..... 6

DEAS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS ONLY

DEAS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS ONLY

## Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

The Community has established an East African Standards Committee (EASC) mandated to develop and issue East African Standards (EAS). The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the public and private sector organizations in the community.

East African Standards are developed through Technical Committees that are representative of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the Principles and procedures for development of East African Standards.

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee EASC/TC 009, Food packaging and labelling.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be subject of patent rights. EAC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.



## General standard for labelling of non-retail containers for food

### 1. Scope

This draft Standard applies to the labelling of non-retail containers of food (excluding food additives and processing aids)<sup>1,2</sup> not intended to be offered directly to the consumer<sup>3</sup> including the information provided in the accompanying physical documents or by other means, and the presentation thereof.

### 2. Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EAS 38: Labelling of pre-packaged foods — General requirements

### 3. Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1

“Food business”

means an entity or undertaking, carrying out one or more activity(ies) related to any stage(s) of production, processing, packaging, storage and distribution (including trade) of food<sup>4</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> As defined in the *labelling of the pre-packaged food* (DEAS 38).

<sup>2</sup> This Standard is not intended to apply to the labelling of food additives and processing aids for which the *General Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives When Sold as Such* (CXS 107-1981) applies.

<sup>3</sup> See Note 1 above.

<sup>4</sup> See Note 1 above.



## 3.2

“Non-retail container”

means any container<sup>5</sup> that is not intended to be offered for direct sale to the consumer<sup>6</sup>. The food<sup>7</sup> in the non-retail container is for further food business activities before being offered to the consumer<sup>8</sup>.

### 4. General principles

4.1. The general principles established in the Labelling of pre-packaged foods — General requirements (DEAS 38) apply equally, as appropriate, to the labelling of non-retail containers of foods.

4.2 The labelling requirements for non-retail containers of foods shall be differentiated clearly from the labelling requirements for pre-packaged<sup>9</sup> foods.

4.3 Non-retail containers shall be clearly identifiable as such.

4.4 The non-retail status of a container shall be determined by the food business selling or distributing the container of food

4.5 The labelling requirements for non-retail containers shall be established taking into account the information requirements and implementation capabilities of food businesses and competent authorities.

4.6 Subject to the requirements outlined in Section 5, the information requirements in respect of non-retail containers of food may be met through means other than on a label as allowed by the competent authority in the country in which it is sold.

4.7 The information on the label and the information in the accompanying documents or provided by other means shall be traceable to the food in the non-retail container and shall provide information to enable the labelling of the food intended for sale to the consumer.

---

<sup>5</sup> See Note 1 above.

<sup>6</sup> See Note 1 above.

<sup>7</sup> See Note 1 above.

<sup>8</sup> See Note 1 above.

<sup>9</sup> See Note 1 above.

## **5. Mandatory information requirements on the label**

The following information shall appear on the label of non-retail containers of food:

### **5.1 The name of the food**

The name shall indicate the true nature of the food and normally be specific and not generic. Where a name or names have been established for a food in East African standard, at least one of these names shall be used.

In other cases, the name prescribed by national legislation shall be used.

In the absence of any such established or prescribed name, either a common or usual name existing by common usage as an appropriate descriptive term which is not misleading or confusing to the food business or in the EAC Partner State in which the food is intended to be sold shall be used.

A “coined”, “fanciful”, “brand” name or “trade mark” may be used provided it accompanies one of the names provided above.

Where the non-retail container contains multiple types of food, the names of all the foods contained therein and/or a commonly understood descriptor that best explains the foods present together in the container shall be provided on the label, as allowed by the competent authority in the EAC Partner State in which the product is sold.

### **5.2 Lot identification**

Each non-retail container shall be marked in code or in a manner to clearly identify the producing factory and the lot(s) of the food in the non-retail container.

### **5.3 Date marking and storage instructions<sup>10</sup>**

#### **5.3.1 -date marking**

Date marking shall be provided for the safety or integrity of the product

#### **5.3.2 -storage instructions**

storage instructions may be provided when required for safety or integrity of the product

---

<sup>10</sup> Information to be provided as in the relevant section of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985).

## 5.4 Identification of a non-retail container

The non-retail containers of foods shall be clearly identifiable as such. If the container is not clearly identifiable as a non-retail container, the container shall be a statement to indicate that the food is not intended to be sold directly to the consumer<sup>11</sup> or to clearly identify it as a non-retail container. Some examples of such statements are:

- a) "NON-RETAIL CONTAINER"
- b) "NON-RETAIL CONTAINER – NOT FOR DIRECT SALE TO CONSUMER" or carry any other mark that indicates that the container is not intended to be sold directly to the consumer.

## 5.5 Name and address

Name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor of the food in the non-retail container shall be declared.

## 6. Mandatory information requirements by means other than on the label

**6.1** The following information shall be provided in the accompanying documents, or through other means:

- a) information required under Section 5;
- b) information sufficient to enable the safe preparation and to meet the requirements for labelling of pre-packaged foods from the food in the non-retail container<sup>12</sup>; and
- c) net contents of the non-retail container.

**6.2** The information required under Subsection 6.1 shall be traceable to the food in the non-retail container.

**6.3** If all information required under Subsection 6.1 is made available on the label, Subsections 6.1 and 6.2 do not apply.

---

<sup>11</sup> See Note 1 on previous page.

<sup>12</sup> See Note 1 on previous page.

## **7. Provisions for specific types of non-retail containers**

### **7.1 Non-retail container used as food transportation unit<sup>13</sup>**

In the case of a non-retail container used as a food transportation unit that is not amenable to possess a label, all the information required under Section 5 and

Subsection 6.1 shall be provided in the accompanying documents or through appropriate other means (e.g. electronically between food businesses) and shall be effectively traceable to the food in such containers.

### **7.2 Non-retail container containing multiple types of food**

Where a non-retail container contains multiple types of food, the mandatory information required by Section 5 and Subsection 6.1 shall be provided for all the types of foods contained therein.

### **7.3 Non-retail container providing visual access**

In the case of a non-retail container, which provides visual and legible access to all the information required by Section 5 on the label of pre-packaged foods within the non-retail container, the information stipulated in Section 5 is not required.

## **8. Presentation of information**

### **8.1 General**

Labels on non-retail containers of foods shall be applied in such a manner that they will not become separated from the container.

Information and the statements required to appear on the label by virtue of this standard or any other East African standards shall be clear, prominent, readily legible and applied in such a manner that any tampering with it will be evident.

The mandatory information required on the label under Section 5 shall appear in a prominent position on the non-retail container and shall be readily accessible under normal handling and use of the container.

Information that is provided by means other than the label shall be readily accessible, legible and clearly displayed.

---

<sup>13</sup> "Food transportation unit" and "bulk" as defined in the *Code of Hygienic Practice for the Transport of Food in Bulk and Semi-Packed Food* (CXC 47-2001).

## 8.2 Language

If the language on the original label is not acceptable to the competent authority or the food business in the country in which the product is sold, the mandatory information in the required language should be provided in the form of re-labelling, a supplementary label and/or in the accompanying documents or by means other than on the label to meet the requirements of the EAC Partner State in which the product is sold.

The mandatory information provided in the required language shall fully and accurately reflect that of the original label.

DEAS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS ONLY