



Section 1, Responsibilities and Legislation

In this section, you will learn:

- ▶ Who is responsible for the food information?
- ▶ What is the basis for the labelling requirements?

Responsibilities

Food business operators are responsible for making sure that their food meets the requirements set by law.

The operator under whose name the food is sold is responsible for its labelling.

Operators must include the necessary labelling according to the requirements set by law. To this end, they must have sufficient and correct information on all produced, processed and distributed food.

Operators must know the type, list of ingredients, weight, shelf life, origin and production or manufacturing method, and be familiar with the requirements set by legislation on food labelling.

For further information, see section 4.5 of the Food Information Guide for Food Supervisors and Food Operators (in Finnish and Swedish).

Legislation

When selling or otherwise providing foodstuffs to consumers or mass caterers, such as restaurants, the law requires that certain information about the food are presented.

When presenting information about your food, you must follow a number of labelling requirements that apply to all foods. These requirements are laid out mainly in the following regulations:

- Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers (referred to as “food information regulation” later in this guide).
- Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (834/2014) on the provision of food information to consumers.
- Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (1010/2014) on reporting high salt content of certain foods.

In addition, you must take into account special legislation concerning matters such as product-specific labelling requirements. Special legislation are listed in this guide under Section 9, Other mandatory information.

How to look up legislation

Legal acts issued by the EU are available at the address: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Search for the act under “latest consolidated version”, if one exists. The consolidated versions of acts have been updated with the latest changes in legislation.

Finnish legislation is available at the address: <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/>

This guide makes frequent references to requirements set by law. In order to easily look up these references, keep the relevant legislation close by while reading the guide.

For further information, see section 2 of the Food Information Guide for Food Supervisors and Food Operators (in Finnish and Swedish).

You can test your knowledge with the revision exercises found in Section 11 of this guide.

Summary

- ▶ You are responsible for the food information of products sold under your name.
- ▶ In order to include the correct labelling, you must be familiar with the legislation that applies to your product's labelling.