

Food Industry Girds For Obamacare Regulations Requiring Calorie Posting

By Administrator

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - From chain stores to vending machines, if an organization sells food, it's subject to a broad new swath of regulations imposed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under Obamacare.

The covered establishments have one year to comply.

Two rules have now been finalized that require calorie information be listed on menus and menu boards in chain restaurants, similar retail food establishments and vending machines with 20 or more locations to provide consumers with more nutritional information about the foods they eat outside of the home.

“Americans eat and drink about one-third of their calories away from home and people today expect clear information about the products they consume,” said FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D in a statement. “Making calorie information available on chain restaurant menus and vending machines is an important step for public health that will help consumers make informed choices for themselves and their families.”

The menu labeling final rule applies to restaurants and similar retail food establishments if they are part of a chain of 20 or more locations, doing business under the same name and offering for sale substantially the same menu items.

Covered food establishments will be required to clearly and conspicuously display calorie information for standard items on menus and menu boards, next to the name or price of the item. Seasonal menu items offered for sale as temporary menu items, daily specials and condiments for general use typically available on a counter or table are exempt from the labeling requirements.

The two final rules are available in the Federal Register:

Final Rule: Nutrition Labeling of Standard Menu Items in Restaurants and Similar Retail Food Establishments

Final Rule: Calorie Labeling of Articles of Food in Vending Machines