

Labelling Requirements for Honey in Ontario

Ontario Regulation 119/11

Infosheet

November 2011

HONEY REGULATION

Sections 19 and 21 of [Ontario Regulation 119/11](#) Produce, Honey and Maple Products (O. Reg. 119/11) under the [Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001](#) outline label requirements for honey. The purpose of this regulation is to ensure accurate information is provided to buyers of honey, as well as to promote fair trading practices and food safety. If you sell honey in Ontario this regulation applies to you. It does not apply to federally registered businesses.

This document is provided for informational purposes only. Please refer to [O. Reg. 119/11](#) for complete requirements.

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

Under [O. Reg. 119/11](#), a label is considered applied to a container if:

- it is imprinted or stamped directly onto the container
- it is otherwise affixed or attached to the container by any means

The following label information is required by [O. Reg. 119/11](#):

- the name and full address of the packer or the person for whom the honey is packed
- the word "honey" or "comb honey", whichever applies
- the grade immediately followed by the colour class on a consumer container of honey or in a bulk container of honey that is being sold or transported directly to a consumer or retail outlet (except comb honey)
- the net weight of the honey in metric units
- in the case of comb honey, a notice that it may contain cells of pollen

A full address means enough information to identify the exact location of the producer's or packer's premises. It must include the street address or property identification number, town or city, province, and postal code.

If the label indicates a specified floral source, the composition of the honey must meet the requirements specified in the [Honey Regulations](#) of the [Canada Agricultural Products Act](#).

A statement on a honey container indicating the honey is pasteurized, creamed or liquid is voluntary. If the producer/packer chooses to include such a statement, then it must meet the grade requirements for pasteurized honey, creamed honey or liquid honey in Table 2 of [O. Reg. 119/11](#).

Honey that is produced outside Ontario and brought into Ontario in bulk for packaging and sale within Ontario must include information regarding the honey's place of origin, as well as other labelling information required by [O. Reg. 119/11](#), specifically:

- if the honey has not been blended with honey produced in Ontario, the words "Product of" followed by the name of the country or province in which it was produced
- if the honey was produced in a country outside Canada and is blended with honey produced in Ontario, the words "Product of Canada and" or "Product of Ontario and" followed by the name of the other country
- if the honey was produced in Canada but outside Ontario and blended with honey produced in Ontario, the words "Product of Ontario and" followed by the name of the other province or "Product of Canada"

Labels on previously used bulk honey containers that do not meet [O. Reg. 119/11](#) requirements:

- must be completely removed and new labels applied or
- information on the previous labels must be completely obliterated and any information required by [O. Reg. 119/11](#) added

EXEMPTIONS

In [O. Reg. 119/11](#), the following labelling exceptions apply:

- On containers of honey with a capacity of 150 grams or less, the grade, colour class and net weight are not required

- Where honey is sold from a dispenser at a retail premises and poured into a container at the time of purchase, the label on the dispenser does not need to indicate the net weight of the honey
- [O. Reg. 119/11](#) does not apply to honey sold on the premises of the producer directly to the consumer in a container with the name and address of the producer and the words “honey” or “comb honey”, as the case may be
- A container filled by the consumer from a dispenser does not require labelling

OTHER REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to [O. Reg. 119/11](#) information and labelling requirements, requirements under the [Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act](#) (Canada) and the [Food and Drugs Act](#) (Canada) also apply.

LETTER SIZE

To ensure clarity for the buyer, all label markings must meet requirements outlined in the [Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act](#). More information on this can be obtained through the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#).

CONTAINERS

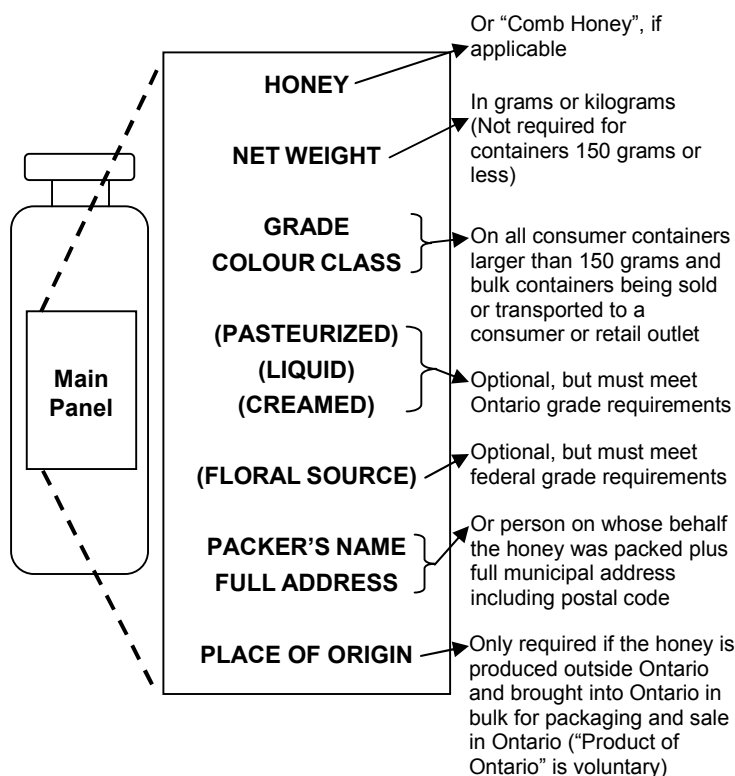
Container means any bottle, jar, bag, pail, drum or other receptacle that contains honey. Under [O. Reg. 119/11](#), consumer container sizes are the same as those permitted under the [Honey Regulations](#) of the [Canada Agricultural Products Act](#). In addition, a container capable of containing a net weight of 330 grams of honey is permitted.

Therefore, permitted consumer container sizes include:

- Any size up to and including 150 grams
- 250 grams
- 330 grams
- 375 grams
- 500 grams
- 750 grams
- 1 kilogram
- 1.5 kilogram
- 2 kilograms
- 3 kilograms
- 5 kilograms

A bulk container is a container with a weight capacity of more than five kilograms of honey.

SUMMARY OF LABEL REQUIREMENTS



For more information:
Suzete Moniz
 Regulatory and Standards Coordinator
 Foods of Plant Origin Program

Telephone: 519 826-4655
 or 1-888-466-2372 ext 6-4655

E-mail: suzete.moniz@ontario.ca
 or fpo.omafra@ontario.ca

www.ontario.ca/omafra