

## trading standards

Worcestershire County Council Trading Standards Service has prepared this leaflet for the assistance of traders. It is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance. Legislation changes from time to time, please note the date that this leaflet was issued. To discuss your specific query please contact us between 9am and 5pm, weekdays.

---

### **FARM SHOPS**

This leaflet has been designed to assist farmers and growers who sell produce from their own premises.

#### **Eggs**

If you sell your own loose un-graded hens' eggs from your own premises they do not need to be marked with any information.

Such eggs should be accompanied by a Best Before date. This date must not be more than 28 days after the date of laying.

If you sell your own eggs at a Farmers' Market or Car Boot Sale you must be registered with DEFRA and the eggs must be marked with the method of production:

0 – organic    1 - free range    2 - barn    3 – cage

your producer identity number and the country of origin.

If you intend to sell your eggs in this way you must contact the local DEFRA Egg Marketing Inspector on 01905 763353. He will advise on the registration process to obtain a producer number, and provide further detail on how the eggs must be marked.

The rules concerning registration and marking only apply to hens' eggs, not to duck, goose, turkey, or quails' eggs.

#### **Fruit and Vegetables**

Fruit and vegetables must generally be sold by net weight unless you operate a box scheme where the boxes contain either more than 5kg of produce or a mixture of more than three different varieties of produce. In this case you may sell by the box.

Where sales must be made by reference to weight you must use the metric system i.e. grams and kilograms.

The scales used to weigh all goods for sale to the public must be stamped as suitable for trade use.

---

**Worcestershire County Council Trading Standards, County Hall, Wildwood Way, Worcester, WR5 2NP**  
Business advice: 01905 765399; Animal Health and Welfare advice: 01905 76570; Consumer advice:  
01905 765373; General Enquiries: 01905 765394

If the produce is weighed in the presence of the consumer the scale indication must be visible to the consumer.

The following items of produce may be sold by number instead of weight:

Apples	Corn on the cob	Pears
Apricots	Cucumbers	Peppers
Artichokes	Fennel	Pineapple
Aubergines	Figs	Plums
Avocados	Garlic	Pomegranates
Bananas	Grapefruit	Pumpkins
Beetroots	Guavas	Radishes
Cabbage	Kiwi fruit	Soft citrus fruit
Cauliflower	Kohlrabi	Tomatoes
Celery	Lemons	Ugli
Coconuts	Lettuce	

And these may be sold by the bunch:

Asparagus	Parsley	Radishes
Beetroots	Garlic	Salad cress
Carrots	Mint	Turnips
Chives	Mustard and cress	Spring onions
Endive	Onions	Watercress

Where you sell the following products by the punnet

- soft fruit (strawberries, raspberries, cherries, red currants, blackcurrants, white currants, gooseberries etc) or
- mushrooms

you MUST make the weight known to the customer before they take possession of the goods. You should do this by placing the punnet of produce on the scale in the presence of the purchaser.

All pre-packed goods must be marked with a selling price.

All loose goods must be marked with a unit price ie a price per kilogram.

You may give a price per pound as additional information but this indication must be less prominent than the price per kilogram.

Unit prices may be displayed next to the goods themselves or on a list that is clearly visible to the consumer eg on a chalk board or paper list

### **Jam/Honey**

If you produce your own honey or make your own jam it may only be sold in specified quantities:

57g, 113g, 227g, 340g, 454g, 690g or multiples of 454g.

(These are the metric equivalents of 2oz, 4oz, 8oz, 12oz and 1lb and equate to standard jam jar sizes.)

---

These requirements do not apply to comb honey or chunk honey.

All honey must be marked with a name ie honey, comb honey etc, its country of origin and its weight.

If you ONLY sell honey from your own premises or from a shop or stall owned and run by you it does not need any further information.

If you sell the honey to other shops etc it must also be marked with your name and address and a best before date. The name, the best before date and the weight must all be visible at the same time.

Jam must satisfy certain minimum legal standards concerning sugar and fruit content. A separate leaflet is available on this subject.

If you ONLY sell your jam from your own premises it need only be marked with a name ie strawberry jam and a weight.

If you also sell jam to other shops etc it must be marked with the total sugar and fruit content, a list of ingredients, your name and address and a best before date. You should refer to the separate jam leaflet for the full details.

## **Cakes**

If you produce and sell your own cakes either loose, in a crimp case or in wholly transparent packaging from you own premises they need not be marked with any information.

If you sell cakes loose or packaged as above to other shops they do not need any additional labelling.

If you decide to include ANY information other than a batch code and a price, you must include ALL of the following information

- a name,
- list of ingredients,
- percentage of named ingredients,
- allergen\* information
- best before date,
- name and address of the packer,
- storage conditions and instructions for use (where relevant) and
- country of origin (where relevant).

\* if your pre-packed products contain any of the following ingredients that information must be clearly shown on the label: eggs, milk, fish, crustaceans, wheat, gluten, sulphites, nuts, peanuts, sesame seeds, mustard or celery. There is no need for a separate allergens box as long as the information is clear. Beware of generic terms such as spices where the mix may contain mustard or celery salt.

You cannot simply mark cakes and similar items with your name and address details.

You should refer to the separate food labelling leaflet for further information on labelling.

---

## **Meat/Poultry**

Raw meat and poultry must be sold by net weight.

Stamped trade scales must be used and sales must be made by the kilogram.

The unit price ie the price per kilogram must be displayed either next to the goods themselves, if they are on display, or on a list that is clearly visible to the consumer.

Pre-packed meat must be marked with a weight, a unit price and a selling price. If it was packed on your own premises it does not need a use by or best before date although it is always good practice to provide this information to your customers.

Cuts of meat must be accurately described eg sirloin, belly pork etc

If you make your own sausages or burgers you must be aware that there are specific legal requirements concerning meat and fat content and the use of colours and preservatives. If you need further information on making your own sausages and burgers please contact the Business Advice team of Worcestershire Trading Standards on 01905 765399 or look at the advice provided by the Food Standards Agency at <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/meatregsguid/meatregsguidebutchers>

## **Beef Labelling**

Special labelling rules apply to beef whether it is sold loose or pre-packed.

All fresh or frozen beef must be marked with the following information:

- The identification number of the slaughterhouse at which it was killed ie the EC number
- The identification number of the cutting plant at which it was prepared
- The country of birth, rearing and slaughter of the animal
- A traceability number that will enable the animal or group of animals from which the meat comes to be identified.

Fresh or frozen minced beef must be marked with

- The country of origin
- The country of production
- A traceability number as above

These rules are designed to ensure that all beef can be traced back to the individual animal or group of animals from which it originated.

## **Animal By Products**

It is illegal to dispose of waste raw meat, eggs or honey via normal trade waste collections.

These products must be sent to an outlet that is approved to receive them:

- A rendering plant
  - Incinerator
-

- Alkaline hydrolysis plant
- Composting or biogas plant
- Pet food plant

You must keep a record of the waste you send for disposal.

You can find further information about disposal of animal by products on the DEFRA website

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/by-prods/pdf/ffguidance1774-2002.pdf>

### **Further Help**

A range of information and advice leaflets are available on the Worcestershire County Council Trading Standards website at

<http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wccindex/wcc-ts-index.htm>.

If you would like to talk to someone about any of the issues raised in this leaflet you can contact the Worcestershire County Trading Standards Business Advice Team on 01905 765399.

### **COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE SERVICE**

The Trading Standards Service deals with thousands of consumers and businesses each year. Whilst our priority is to offer a high level of service, occasionally things go wrong. If this happens, let us know. We will investigate the matter and make sure that you are kept informed of the steps being taken and of the final result. This will help us put right any errors. In the interests of staff protection we will record details of any incidents of aggressive or threatening behaviour for internal use. We would also welcome any constructive comments to help improve our Service.

---