



## **Registration of pre-packed food products in Tanzania**

Section 28 of the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2003 prohibits manufacture, sell, distribution, importation, or exposure for sale of pre-packed food unless it is registered by the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA).

### **Categories/Types of food to be registered**

All pre-packed food and/or food products in sealed boxes, bottles and such containers, ready for consumption by human being need to be registered by the Authority. These include beverages, such as beer, soda and pre-packed/tin meat. Food products such as maize, beans, groundnuts and the like which do not undergo pre-packing processes are not included in the list.

### **Importance of food registration**

Pre-packed food are registered in order to evaluate their quality and safety, together with safety properties of their container(s) including information available on the label. The ultimate goal is to protect the health of consumers against hazards which may associate with use of unsafe and poor quality food products. S

Registration procedures also help in prohibition of importation of unfit food products in Tanzania.

### **Procedures for food registration**

Any person who intends to import pre-packed food products in the country or intends to pre-pack the same for selling in Tanzania market, ought to abide by the following registration procedures;-

1. Fill in Application forms for registration of pre-packed food. The Application form can be obtained directly from TFDA offices, or be downloaded through TFDA website; [www.tfda.or.tz](http://www.tfda.or.tz)

2. Submit the dully filled Application form to the Director General, TFDA; P. O. Box 77150, Dar Es Salaam
3. The application form must be accompanied by;
  - a) Information about prep-packing processes, other ingredients and assimilation procedures, quality and safety specifications of the container and package and their interaction with food they contain, and any other information as directed in the Guidelines for Registration of pre-packed food products
  - b) Enough food samples to enable evaluation of information on the product-label and laboratory analysis of food product concerned
  - c) Registration fee

After receiving the Application, TFDA experts evaluate all information and food package submitted. Samples of food are sent to Laboratory for analytical processes to check if they conform to National and International quality and safety specifications.

Evaluation processes take longer time for food products with many ingredients. Sometimes, TFDA ought to get some clarification from the applicant if more information about the food product is needed during evaluation.

The label is evaluated in order to circumvent misleading information to the product consumers. Labelling information should include food ingredients and additives, manufacturing and expiry dates, name and address of the manufacturer. This information must be in English or Swahili or both languages.

### **Rejection of application**

Application for registration can be rejected if evaluation and laboratory analysis results prove that the food product is not fit for human consumption or the labelling information has been aimed at misleading the consumer. Furthermore, the application can be rejected if pre-packing processes are done in premises which do not conform to safety specifications.

### **What to be done after food product is registered**

If the product is approved for registration, the applicant is issued with manufacturing or import permit. The permit usually lasts for 5 years, after which the applicant need to re-apply for registration of the same food product.

## **What to be considered in case you need to make amendment on already registered food product**

- a) In case the applicant intends to make amendments on containers and packages, combination of ingredients and information on the label of food product which has already been registered, s/he ought to inform the Authority on the intention so as to enable updating Authority's information about the same
- b) The applicant also should bring samples of the amended product
- c) If the amendment would involve component of pre-packing processes, the applicant has to incorporate inspection fees for the premises.

Inspection and surveillance are executed by TFDA staff to food outlets in order to ascertain that the reached standards of quality and safety of registered pre-packed food is maintained.

TFDA urges all its stakeholders to collaborate and disclose all unfaithfully food trading in order to safeguard the public health.

**Director General**

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