

Pursuant to Article 21(7) of the Act on the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 24/05 – official consolidated text, 109/08, 38/10 – ZUKN, 8/12, 21/13, 47/13 – ZDU-1G, 65/14, 55/17 and 163/22), the Government of the Republic of Slovenia hereby issues the following

REGULATION
on the use of the ‘Good Choice’ label to facilitate the identification of foods with a favourable nutritional composition

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1
(Subject matter)

(1) This Regulation specifies the use of the ‘Good Choice’ label (hereinafter referred to as ‘the label’) to facilitate the identification of foods with a favourable nutritional composition, the conditions that the foods must meet when using the label, including use in the media, the graphic image of the label, the establishment of a list of foods with the label, control over the use of the label and fines for offences.

(2) This Regulation, in accordance with Article 35 and Article 38(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004 (OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 18), as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods, amending Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1852/2001 (OJ L 327, 11.12.2015, p. 1) (hereinafter referred to as ‘Regulation 1169/2011/EU’), provides for additional forms of indicating and displaying the nutritional value for foods in graphic form or a symbol, monitoring of such foods placed on the market in the Republic of Slovenia.

(3) This Regulation is issued subject to the information procedure in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (codification) (OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, p. 1).

(4) The provisions of this Regulation shall not apply to products which, in accordance with national legislation that ensures an equivalent level of protection of the public interest as defined in the legislation of the Republic of Slovenia, are legally:

- produced or marketed in other Member States of the European Union and Turkey, or
- produced in the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which are also signatories to the Agreement on the European Economic Area.

Article 2
(Definitions)

The terms used in this Regulation have the following meanings:

1. 'packaging' shall mean packaging as defined by the regulation governing packaging and waste packaging;
2. 'media' shall mean the media as defined by the law governing the media;
3. 'non-prepackaged food' shall mean food as defined by the rules governing the general labelling of non-prepackaged foods;
4. 'food business operator' shall mean a natural or legal person as defined in Article 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1), as last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/908 of 17 January 2024 amending Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the number and names of the permanent Scientific Panels of the European Food Safety Authority (OJ L 2024/908, 20.3.2024), which, in accordance with Article 9(1) of this Regulation, informs about the use of the 'Good Choice' label;
5. 'favourable nutritional composition of food' shall mean that the food referred to in Annex 1, which is an integral part of this Regulation:
 - is low in fat, saturated fat, sugar or salt,
 - has a high dietary fibre content, or
 - low energy value;
6. 'use of the label' shall mean marking, presentation or advertising of food bearing the label;
7. 'safe space' shall mean the empty space around the label, as determined by the integrated graphic image referred to in Annex 3, which is an integral part of this Regulation, and ensures the legibility of the label and its importance;
8. 'food packaged for direct sale' shall mean food as defined by the rules governing the general labelling of foods that are not prepackaged;
9. 'food as prepared for consumption' shall mean food that has been processed by the food business operator to the extent that it is suitable for consumption without prior preparation or cooking.

II. USE OF THE LABEL, GRAPHIC IMAGE AND LIST OF FOODS

Article 3 (Use of the label)

(1) The use of the label is voluntary.

(2) The label may be used for prepackaged and non-prepackaged food and food packaged for direct sale, in accordance with the conditions of use of the label in food groups and the limit values of nutrients in food referred to in Annex 1, which is an integral part of this Regulation.

(3) The following shall not be used in the production of a food referred to in the preceding paragraph:

- additives belonging to the functional class of sweeteners as laid down in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food additives (OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p.16), last amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1451 of 24 May 2024 amending Annex II and Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the food additives tartaric acid (L(+)-) (E 334), sodium tartrates (E 335), potassium tartrates (E 336), sodium potassium tartrate (E 337) and calcium tartrate (E 354) (OJ L 2024/1451, 27.5.2024) (hereinafter referred to as 'Regulation 1333/2008/EC'), and
- colours listed in Annex V of Regulation 1333/2008/EC.

(4) For food that meets the conditions referred to in paragraph 2 or 3 of this article, the graphic image of the label specified in Annex 2, which is an integral part of this Regulation, shall be used.

(5) Food referred to in the preceding paragraph must also be labelled in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011.

Article 4 (Label shape and size)

(1) The label consists of a graphic symbol in the shape of the letter Q, which stands for the nutritional quality of the food, a heart image in the middle, the inscription 'GOOD CHOICE' and a safe space.

(2) The label must always have the same shape. Only enlargements and reductions of the label as a whole are allowed.

(3) The label shall be placed on the central field of vision of the packaging.

(4) The size of the label shall be at least 10 mm in width and may be reduced to a minimum width of 8 mm in the case of small packages and products.

(5) The size of the 'GOOD CHOICE' inscription shall always be proportional to the size of the graphic symbol and the base or safety margin. Reductions or enlargements of the inscription 'GOOD CHOICE' independently of the graphic symbol are not allowed.

(6) Regardless of paragraph 1 of this article, the graphic image of the label referred to in point (e) of Annex 2 of this Regulation may be used without the inscription 'GOOD CHOICE', where the width of the label is equal to 8 mm for small packaging and products.

(7) The overall graphic image is specified in Annex 3, which is an integral part of this Regulation.

Article 5 (Colour and typography)

(1) The label is used in the following colour variants:

1. Pantone colours:
 - colour of the label: GREEN – Pantone 7738 C,
 - colour of the label: BLACK – Pantone Black,
 - colour of the label: WHITE – Pantone White;
2. process colours (CMYK):
 - colour of the label: GREEN – c75 m5 y100 k0,
 - colour of the label: BLACK – c0 m0 y0 k100,
 - colour of the label: WHITE – c0 m0 y0 k0;
3. RGB colours:
 - colour of the label: GREEN – r65 g173 b73,
 - colour of the label: BLACK – r0 g0 b0,
 - colour of the label: WHITE – r255 g255 b255.

(2) The graphic image of the label shall be in green, as specified in point (a) of Annex 2 of this Regulation. When the base of the packaging is green, a colour negative may be used, as specified in point (b) of Annex 2 of this Regulation.

(3) Regardless of the preceding paragraph, where the use of the green colour of the label is not possible, the positive or negative version shall be used. The implementation on a light background is always in black, as specified in point (c) of Annex 2 of this Regulation, and on a dark background always in white, as specified in point (d) of Annex 2 of this Regulation.

(4) The use of a positive or negative version of the label is recommended only if technical difficulties prevent the use of a colour version.

(5) For the inscription 'GOOD CHOICE' the converted AEDIN condensed typography is used, therefore reconstruction is not allowed.

Article 6 (Use of the label in the media)

(1) When advertising food with the label in the media, the clearly visible label referred to in point (a) of Annex 2 of this Regulation shall be used in green. If this is not possible, the positive or negative version of the label referred to in paragraph 3 of the preceding article shall be used.

(2) Regardless of paragraph 5 of the preceding article, other typographies referred to in Annex 3 of this Regulation may also be used in the media.

Article 7 (List of foods bearing the label)

(1) The Ministry responsible for health (hereinafter referred to as 'the Ministry') establishes and manages a list of foods bearing the label (hereinafter referred to as 'the list of foods'), which is available on the central website of the state administration.

(2) The Ministry may, based on a public call, appoint an administrator of the food list (hereinafter referred to as 'administrator') to establish and manage the food list.

(3) The food list shall contain at least the following particulars concerning the food:

- the name of the food;
- list of ingredients and information on the nutritional value of the food;
- the name of the food business operator referred to in Article 9(1) of this Regulation.

(4) Before a food is entered in the list of foods, compliance with the conditions set out in Article 3 of this Regulation shall be verified.

(5) Once a food has been entered in the list, the food business operator may start using the label.

(6) An administrator can be anyone who:

- has at least 10 years of experience in the field of raising awareness of a healthy lifestyle, with an emphasis on healthy eating,
- has experience in the field of food composition and labelling and is familiar with the legislation in this field,
- has experience in the field of foods with favourable nutritional composition.

(7) Direct access to the data from the list of foods is provided to authorized persons of the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (hereinafter referred to as 'the Administration').

III. TASKS, INFORMATION ON THE USE OF THE LABEL AND KEEPING OF RECORDS

Article 8 (Tasks)

Ministry or a administrator, if appointed, performs the following tasks:

- establishes a list of foods that meet the conditions referred to in Article 3(2) and (3) of this Regulation;
- verifies compliance with the conditions for the use of the label prior to inclusion of the food in the list of foods;
- regularly includes the data referred to in paragraph 3 of the preceding article in the list of foods and updates it based on the notified changes of the food business operator;
- determines the contact person in charge of communicating with the administration, the Ministry, food business operators and users of the list of foods;
- ensures the exchange of information between food business operators, the administration, the Ministry and users of the list of foods on all matters relating to foods bearing the label and the list of foods; and
- other tasks related to the use of the label.

Article 9 (Information on the use of the label)

(1) Before the start of the use of the label, the food business operator shall inform the Ministry or the administrator, if appointed, of the details of the use of the label for a food referred to in Annex 4, which is an integral part of this Regulation.

(2) The information referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be provided by electronic means.

(3) The minister of health shall determine more detailed conditions regarding the method of electronic notification and verification of compliance with the conditions of use of the label.

(4) The food business operator is responsible for the correctness of the submitted data when notifying the Ministry or the administrator, if appointed.

(5) In the event of a change in the composition of the food or its name, withdrawal of the food from the market or cessation of its sale, the food business operator shall notify the Ministry or the administrator, if appointed, within 30 days.

Article 10 (Records of foods using the label)

(1) A food business operator shall keep records of its food products using a label indicating compliance with this Regulation.

(2) In addition to the data referred to in Article 7(3) of this Regulation, the records referred to in the preceding paragraph shall also contain the quantity of food produced using the label.

(3) For foods with certain maximum levels set out in Annex 1 of this Regulation, the records referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article must, in addition to the data referred to in the preceding paragraph, also contain analytical results demonstrating the compliance of the food with the maximum levels and an indication on the declaration.

(4) The food business operator shall obtain the analytical results referred to in the preceding paragraph from an accredited laboratory at least once a year as part of internal controls.

IV. SUPERVISION

Article 11 (Supervision)

Supervision of the implementation of this Regulation shall be carried out by the administration.

V. PROVISIONS ON PENALTIES

Article 12 (Infringements)

(1) A fine of between EUR 5,000 and EUR 10,000 shall be imposed on a legal person for an offence if it:

- uses the label contrary to Article 3 of this Regulation,
- fails to inform the Ministry or the administrator of the use of the label in accordance with Article 9(1) or (7) of this Regulation or if it submits incorrect information contrary to the Article 9(6) of this Regulation,
- does not keep records and does not check the conformity of the particulars on the declaration in accordance with Article 10 of this Regulation.

(2) A fine of between EUR 1,000 and EUR 5,000 shall be imposed for an offence referred to in the preceding paragraph on a sole trader or an individual who performs an activity independently.

(3) A fine of between EUR 500 and EUR 1,000 shall be imposed for an offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on the responsible person of a legal entity or the responsible person of a sole trader or an individual who performs an activity independently.

VI. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISION

Article 13 (Establishment and management of the list)

The establishment and management of the list of foods bearing the label referred to in Article 7(1) of this Regulation shall be carried out no later than six months after the entry into force of this Regulation.

Article 14 (Entry into force)

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 15th day following its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.

No 0070-160/2023
Ljubljana, on [...]
EVA 2023-2711-0094
Government of the Republic of Slovenia

Dr. Robert Golob
President

Annex 1

Conditions for the use of the label in food groups and maximum levels of nutrients in food

Food group	The group covers	Maximum levels of nutrients per 100 g or ml of food	Additional terms and notes
PREPACKAGED FOODS			
1. Seeds and nuts	Popcorn, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds and the like, nuts and mixed nuts, including flavoured nuts.	– saturated fats up to 8 g – sugar up to 7.5 g – salt up to 0.1 g	– no added sugars*
2. Milk, milk-based drinks	Milk, milk-based drinks, where milk is the main ingredient.	– fats up to 1.8 g	– no added sugars*
3. Plant-based drinks (milk substitutes)	Almond, soy, rice, oat drinks, etc.	– fats up to 1.8 g – sugar up to 5 g – salt up to 0.2 g	– no added sugars*
4. Natural mineral waters	Mineral waters, with added CO ₂ or without.	without nutrient restriction	
5. Non-alcoholic drinks	Flavoured water beverages with added fruit or vegetable juice.	– sugar up to 2.5 g	– energy up to 80 kJ – no added sugars*
6. Breakfast cereals	Corn flakes and other cereal products in the form of flakes (e.g., oat, wheat flakes), flakes with other additives, granola, etc.	– sugar up to 12.5 g – fats up to 10 g – salt up to 0.5 g – fibre at least 6 g	
7. Yoghurts, sour milk and similar foods	Yoghurts and beverages based on fermented milk (sour milk, kefir, buttermilk), also flavoured fermented milk products and beverages with added fruit, muesli, etc.	– fats up to 1.8 g – sugar up to 9 g	– the sugars contained are derived only from milk, fruit or vegetables or preparations of fruit and vegetables
8. Cottage cheese	Chunky or smooth cottage cheese.	– fats up to 3 g – salt up to 0.3 g	– no added sugars*, – the group does not include fruit curds and similar products
9. Vegetable oils	Vegetable oils, such as olive, rapeseed, sunflower, walnut, hemp and other oils or their mixtures, if they reach the limit values regarding fatty acids.	– saturated fats up to 20% of total fats – monounsaturated fats with at least 45% of total fats	– products may be flavoured (e.g. with fragrances and others)
10. Bread, bakery products and dried	Various breads, including gluten-free	– fats up to 10 g – sugar up to 5 g	

Food group	The group covers	Maximum levels of nutrients per 100 g or ml of food	Additional terms and notes
cereal products	bread, unleavened bread, bread for toast, crusty bread, toasted bread, grissini, etc.	– salt up to 1.1 g – fibre at least 5 g	
11. Cereals and pseudocereals, dried pasta, fresh pasta, ready-to-eat pasta, ready-to-eat legumes and rice	Pasta, gnocchi, dumplings, couscous, beans, peas, lentils, chickpeas, etc., cereals, buckwheat, rice, quinoa, amaranth, maize, etc., ready to eat.	– fats up to 5 g – sugar up to 5 g – salt up to 1.0 g – fibre at least 5 g	
12. Fresh and frozen poultry meat	All kinds of poultry meat.	– fats up to 3 g	
13. Fresh fish	All kinds of fish.	without nutrient restriction	
14. Fresh and frozen fruit, vegetables and legumes	Fruit, vegetables and legumes, including starchy ones (e.g. potatoes).	without nutrient restriction	
15. Processed vegetables and legumes (excluding juices)	Canned vegetables and legumes (pickled, dried, stewed).	– fats up to 5 g – salt up to 0.9 g	
16. Pickled/fermented vegetables	Pickled/fermented (e.g. cabbage, turnips).	– salt up to 1.5 g	
NON-PREPACKAGED FOODS			
17. Bread	Different types of bread.	– fats up to 10 g – sugar up to 5 g – salt up to 1.1 g – fibre at least 5 g	
18. Fresh poultry meat	All kinds of fresh poultry meat.	– fats up to 3 g	
19. Fresh fish	All kinds of fish.	without nutrient restriction	
20. Fresh fruit, vegetables and legumes	Fruit and vegetables and legumes, including starchy ones (e.g. potatoes).	without nutrient restriction	
* contains only naturally occurring sugars			

Annex 2
Graphic representation of the label

(a)



GOOD CHOICE

(b)



DOBRA IZBIRA

(c)



DOBRA IZBIRA

(d)



DOBRA IZBIRA

(e)



Annex 3

Integrated graphic image



Annex 4

Information in the notice of use of the label

- date of notification;
- type of notification: start of use of the label/change of food information/discontinuation of use of the label/cessation of sale of food;
- information of the applicant (company name/name of the business entity, tax number of the business entity, contact email address);
- trade name of the food;
- brand name;
- manufacturer of the food (name of the company/name of the business entity);
- barcode number (if any);
- net quantity (if any);
- the group of foods referred to in Annex 1 of this Regulation;
- nutrition claims (optional);
- the list of ingredients;
- information on the sweeteners contained (yes/no);
- information on the colours contained, which require special labelling (yes/no);
- information on the added sugars contained (yes/no);
- nutrition information of the food (only for foods with certain threshold values set out in Annex 1 of this Regulation);
- annex: analysis results proving the adequacy of nutritional value data (only for foods with certain threshold values set out in Annex 1 of this Regulation);
- annex: the placing of a label on the food or a photograph of the label on the food (only for pre-packaged foods).