

December 18, 2020

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
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The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
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Dear Ministers

Re: Compliance Deadline for 2016 Nutrition Labelling Changes

We are writing to you on behalf of Canada's 7,000 food and beverage manufacturers, the vast majority of which are small and mid-sized businesses, to request clarification around the current December 14, 2021 Compliance Deadline for Nutrition Labelling changes.

While the December 2021 deadline is required by regulatory amendments made on December 14, 2016, industry has previously received indications that the deadline could be amended to coordinate with further labelling changes including, for example, food labelling changes proposed under Health Canada's Healthy Eating Strategy. To this end, Health Canada's website has for some time included the following notation:

Note: It is currently being proposed that the transition period be extended to December 14, 2022. Additional information will be provided at a later date.¹

Although industry has been told the Compliance Deadline could be moved, this has yet to be formally confirmed. In addition Health Canada has recently announced its intent to consult on a

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-labelling/nutrition-labelling/regulations-compliance.html>

coordinated approach to food labelling changes. While the coordination initiative is very well received, its impact on the 2016 Nutrition Labelling changes remains unclear.

We encourage you to provide clarification of the Compliance Deadline for the 2016 Nutrition Labelling changes as soon as possible. Companies that have yet to comply will need to be actively working on the necessary labelling changes in order to meet the current compliance deadline. It will, however, be preferable for many of these companies to delay this work if the intent is to coordinate the changes with further labelling amendments.

In making this decision, we also encourage you to consider that the food and beverage processing sector is under considerable cost pressure as a result of COVID-19. We therefore encourage you to delay the Compliance Deadline to allow industry the opportunity to continue focusing on maintaining food production and managing worker health.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Sullivan', written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Sullivan
CEO