

Title : Labeling Requirements For Cigarette Packets

Country : Ghana

Government Level: National

Approval Date: July 01, 1989

Effective Date: January 01, 1990

Subjects : Advertising/Restrictions, Health Warnings, Labeling Content/Disclosure Requirements, Health Warnings

Full Text :

GHANA

Labeling Requirements For Cigarette Packets

Introduction

As you are aware, Government has for sometime now viewed with concern the absence of health warning [unreadable text] on the packets of cigarettes produced locally. In addition, it has also been observed that the cigarette packets do not exhibit markings readily understood by the consumer which would indicate the time of manufacture of the products which could therefore be related to their suitability for consumption at a particular moment in time.

To address these issues, Government in accordance with para. 9(1), d(iii) of the Standards Decree, NRCD 173:1973 directed the Ghana Standards Board to ensure compliance, with the minimum of delay, the following directives:

=(i) Health Warning Label

Every cigarette manufactured in Ghana for distribution for sale should have as part of the label on the packet a health warning which should read:

MINISTRY OF HEALTH WARNING
Cigarette smoking can be harmful to your health

The warning should either be printed on the packet or on a label securely attached to it.

=(ii) Health Warning Labels in Advertising

Visual objects or indicators which are exhibited by Cigarette manufacturers to promote the distribution or sale of cigarettes must at all times carry the health warning as given above.

=(iii) Contents Label

Every cigarette manufactured in Ghana for distribution or sale should have markings visibly on it to indicate the time of manufacture of the contents (cigarettes) of the packet.

In order to ensure that the foregoing directives are complied with by the relevant manufacturers, two meetings have been held between your Company Int. Tobacco Company (I.T.C.) and the Ghana Standards Board to discuss the issues.

Taking into consideration the financial and technical implications involved in giving effect to above directives it was agreed that a minimum of six (6) months would be needed to have the health warning printed on cigarette packets. Thus the first set of such packets would be on the market not less than six (6) months from now. The decision had been arrived at taking into consideration re-arrangement on the production line and the manufacture of new printing cylinders for the labeling of the packets. The meeting also agreed that since every possible effort is being made to ensure that the health warning is printed on the cigarette packet itself, it would not be economical to acquire temporary machinery to fix stickers on the packets; machines which would be done away with in less than the two or three months after commencement of their use (since it would take about three to four months to import these machines into the country).

The said meetings also agreed that directives (ii) and (iii) would be complied with when the new cigarette packets come on the market.

The purpose of this letter, Sir, is to confirm the Government directives on the issue and also the agreements reached at the meetings held between us.

The Ghana Standards Board will be in close contact with your Company to monitor progress being made towards compliance with the Government directives.

The Board counts on your usual cooperation in this matter of such national importance.

I remain,

(S BOATENG)
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL)
cc: Nathan A. Quao. M.V.,
PNDC Secretariat,
Castle, Osu.
PNDC Secretary,
Min. of Industries, Science & Tech.
Accra
PNDC Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Accra.