



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance, Private Bag X343, PRETORIA, 0001

## FAX COVER SHEET

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<b>TO:</b>	The Mayonnaise industry		
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Subject

### DISPENSATION: USE OF "BURGER MAYONNAISE" AND SIMILAR INDICATIONS

#### 1. BACKGROUND

The Department received a request to allow for descriptions such as "Burger Mayonnaise", i.e. the intended use of the mayonnaise, on labels. Some manufacturers and retailers have been using "Burger Mayonnaise" on their products although the Regulations regarding control over the sale of mayonnaise and salad dressing in the Republic of South Africa (No.R.636 of 30 June 2000) do not currently provide for this type of product description in the case of mayonnaise and reduced oil mayonnaise.

In terms of regulation 5(1)(c)(i) of R.636 it is permissible to replace the word 'salad' in the categories of products other than mayonnaise and reduced oil mayonnaise with a descriptive name for the product concerned, such as e.g. "Salad and Chip Dressing". In the case of mayonnaise and reduced oil mayonnaise however only the wording e.g. "Seafood flavoured Mayonnaise", "Mayonnaise for use on Burgers", etc. may be used to describe the product concerned, not "Burger Mayonnaise".

The Department thus consulted with the industry regarding the indication of "Burger Mayonnaise" as intended use.

#### 2. COMMENTS RECEIVED

Comments received reflected mainly two viewpoints, namely (a) those supporting the indication of "Burger Mayonnaise" only, and (b) those in support of the indication of "Burger Mayonnaise" with a description of the intended use on the main panel.

An important point made is that the regulations do prescribe the exact composition of Mayonnaise and Reduced Oil Mayonnaise, and the addition of e.g. fish, seafood, hamburgers, etc. are not allowed. Thus, whether the indication is e.g. "Seafood Mayonnaise" or "Mayonnaise for use with Seafood" the consumer will not be misled into thinking that the or reduced oil mayonnaise is made from seafood or contains seafood since it is anyway not permissible to be added as an ingredient.

#### 3. DECISION

In view of the above, the Department decided to allow the following as indication of the intended use in the case of mayonnaise and Reduced Oil Mayonnaise:

- (a) On its own as the product descriptor: "Burger Mayonnaise", "Seafood Mayonnaise", "Chip Mayonnaise", "Hotdog Mayonnaise", etc., or

- (b) The product descriptor “Burger Mayonnaise”, “Seafood Mayonnaise”, “Chip Mayonnaise”, “Hotdog Mayonnaise”, etc. with an indication of the intended use anywhere on the main panel.

Notwithstanding the above two options provided for, the Department is of the opinion that option (b) would be the more preferred and ‘safer’ option in the long run.

4. **DISPENSATION**

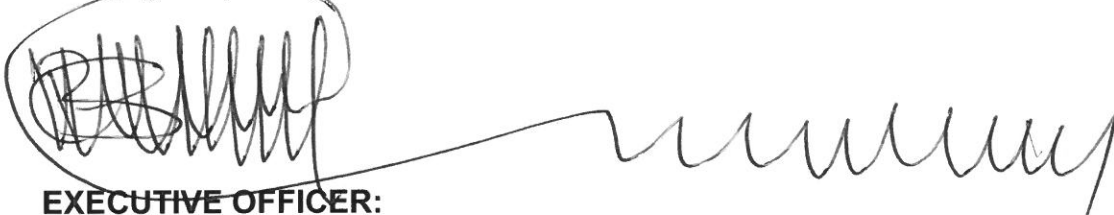
Permission is hereby granted by the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards in terms of section 3(1)(c) of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), to the Mayonnaise Industry to use the following product descriptions as indication of the intended use of Mayonnaise and reduced oil mayonnaise:

- (a) “Burger Mayonnaise”, “Seafood Mayonnaise”, “Chip Mayonnaise”, “Hotdog Mayonnaise”, etc. on its own; or
- (b) “Burger Mayonnaise”, “Seafood Mayonnaise”, “Chip Mayonnaise”, “Hotdog Mayonnaise”, etc. with an indication of the intended use anywhere on the main panel.

This permission is subject to the following conditions:

- (i) All other conditions of the relevant regulations shall be complied with.
- (ii) It may be withdrawn at any time should a valid complaint be received.
- (iii) The Mayonnaise Industry indemnifies this Directorate and the Department from any detrimental effect, financially or otherwise, which may emanate as a result of this permission.
- (iv) Termination date: When the amendment to the relevant regulations has been published in the Government Gazette.

Kind regards,



**EXECUTIVE OFFICER:  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990 (ACT NO 119 OF 1990)**

Copies: Inspection Services

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