



agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

FAX COVER SHEET

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Subject

LABELLING OF FRUIT FLAVOURED WATERS

The current Fruit Juice and Drink regulations (No. R.286 of 7 November 1980, as amended) under the APS Act make provision for the word "Drink", in the case of the class Fruit Flavoured Drink, to be substituted by the words "mineral water" or "spring water".

The Department of Health has however in the meantime published regulations for Bottled Waters which came into effect on 28 July 2007. The definition for "bottled water" in these regulations read as follows: "bottled water means water that is packed in sealed containers, but does not contain sugars, sweeteners, flavourings or any other foodstuff". Therefore water that has been sweetened and flavoured can no longer be labelled as e.g. *orange flavoured mineral water, lemon flavoured spring water*, etc. Since the Bottled Waters regulations of the Department of Health are also very specific, they get preference over the Fruit Juice and Drink regulations of the Department of Agriculture.

In view of the above, the clause in the Fruit Juice and Drink regulations permitting the substitution of the word "Drink" with the words "mineral water" or "spring water" in the case of a Fruit Flavoured Drink can no longer be enforced and must in future be ignored by your inspectors.

Waters containing flavourings and/or colourants and which in appearance, flavour and taste resembles juice derived from fruit therefore have to be classified as a Fruit Flavoured Drink and must be labelled accordingly.

We trust that the above explanation will be of assistance in the enforcement of the Fruit Juice and Drink regulations.

Should you have any further questions, you are welcome to contact this office.

Kind regards,


DIRECTOR:

DIRECTORATE FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE