

**RULES AND REGULATIONS PRESCRIBING
UNIFORM RETAIL MEAT IDENTITY STANDARDS**

[R21-33-PBP]

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Health

April 1975

As Amended:

**January 2002 (re-filing in accordance with
the provisions of section 42-35-4.1 of the
Rhode Island General Laws, as amended)**

Under the authority of Chapters 23-1-18(5) and 21-31-9 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended and in order to establish a standard set of descriptive terms to be applied to the various cuts of meat and to attain uniformity in the use of these terms in the labeling and advertising of meats and meat food products offered for sale therein by retail food establishments the following regulation is hereby promulgated:

The "Uniform Retail Meat Identity Standards" as published by the Department of Merchandising, National Live Stock and Meat Board and effective 1 January 1975 is hereby adopted as the "Uniform Retail Meat Identity Standards" of the State of Rhode Island, with the following modifications:

MODIFICATIONS:

1. The term "bone-in" must be used in all advertising to identify cuts of meat which contain bones except in the case of chops, i.e., pork chops, lamb chops, etc. Prepackaged meat containing bone shall bear the label "bone-in" whenever the package conceals or does not clearly expose the bone matter.
2. Ground meats shall have a fat/lean ratio expressed in the form of "Not more than X% Fat".
3. "Lean Hamburger" or "Lean Ground Beef" shall be ground beef that contains not more than 25% by weight of beef fat.
4. "Extra Lean Hamburger" or "Extra Lean Ground Beef" shall be ground beef that contains not more than 20% by weight of beef fat.
5. The term "Diet Lean" shall not be used to designate ground meat or hamburger.

If the above terms identifying the respective category or ground beef or hamburger are used, they shall appear on a label securely affixed to the container or wrapping of said product in a size of letter that is clearly legible.

Wherever these products are displayed for sale whether in package or bulk, they shall be clearly identified at the point of sale with a sign which shall contain the category of ground meat or hamburger and shall also contain the following: "Contains not more than (the respective percentage as set forth above) percent fat" in letters not less than three-quarters of an inch in height in bold face type.

6. Italian style sausage shall be so labeled and shall consist wholly of pork, spices and salt and shall not contain fat in excess of 27% and may be qualified by the words "Hot" or "Sweet". Paprika may be used, but must be prominently declared on the label as "Paprika added for color".
7. Any fresh ground meat product or mixture containing pork shall be clearly labeled "Contains Fresh Pork" and said label shall be prominent and adjacent to the product name.
8. Penalty for Violations - Any person who violates the foregoing regulations shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 21-31 (4) (5) (6) of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, entitled Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
9. The Regulations Governing Meat Inspection pertaining to Marking, Branding, and Identification, Labeling, and Reinspection and Preparation of Meat Products, R23-1-M1 through M3, dated 1 July 1966 are herewith repealed in their entirety.