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Q34

With reference to pre-packaged items in India, it is mandatory for the manufacturer to put which of the following information on the main label, as per the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011? 1. List of ingredients including additives 2. Nutrition information 3. Recommendation, if any, made by the medical profession about the possibility of any allergic reactions 4. Vegetarian/non-vegetarian Select the correct answer using the code given below (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2, 3 and 4 (c) 1, 2 and 4 (d) 1 and 4 only Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Science and Technology

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Explanation**(a)**

1, 2 and 3. Ingredients, additives and nutrition facts are labelling heads, but a medical-profession recommendation about possible allergic reactions is not a mandatory main-label item in the 2011 Regulations as worded. Including 3 makes this letter wrong.

(b)

2, 3 and 4. Nutrition and veg/non-veg marks are required; the medical-allergy recommendation in 3 is not. Omitting ingredients is also wrong.

(c) Official key

1, 2 and 4. FSS (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011 require a list of ingredients including additives, nutrition information, and a vegetarian/non-vegetarian mark on pre-packaged food. Statement 3's medical-profession allergy recommendation is not that mandatory set. That stored letter is the official key.

(d)

1 and 4 only. Nutrition information is also mandatory on the label, so dropping 2 is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (c) 1, 2 and 4. Pre-packaged food must show ingredients (with additives), nutrition information and the veg/non-veg symbol. A doctor's allergy recommendation as stated is not the 2011 mandatory trio. Honour the stored letter (c).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

FSSAI

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

Veg mark

Green symbol; brown/maroon for non-vegetarian

Best before / expiry

Date marking also required on packs

Allergen labelling (later tightening)

Declared allergens differ from 'medical recommendation' wording

Legal metrology

Net quantity and MRP on packaged commodities

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