

Addition to the 2022 FDA Food Code Sesame Added as a Major Food Allergen



Starting January 1, 2023, sesame was added as the 9th major food allergen in the 2022 FDA Food Code. With the addition of sesame, the list of major food allergens is: milk, egg, fish, Crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, wheat, peanuts, soybeans and sesame.

Foods packaged on or after January 1, 2023 and sold within retail food establishments are required to list the ingredient sesame on the label as a major food allergen. However, you may still find food products packaged before January 1, 2023 for sale that don't list sesame as an allergen on the label because some packaged foods can have a long shelf life, for example frozen or canned foods. Foods that were in stock or on their way to the store before January 1, 2023 do not need to be removed from the marketplace or relabeled to declare sesame as an allergen.



How does this impact my establishment?

In states or cities that have adopted the 2022 FDA Food Code:

PACKAGED FOODS

FDA Food Code Section 3-602.11 and Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act Section 403(w)

Food items packaged at retail for sale to consumers must declare the major food allergens they contain, including sesame, on the label. *Retail food establishment managers need to review these food products to ensure proper labeling.*



UNPACKAGED FOODS

FDA Food Code Section 3-602.12

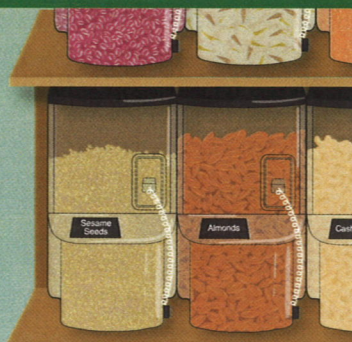
Unpackaged food served or sold to consumers within a retail food establishment must have written notification to consumers of the presence of major food allergens as an ingredient in the unpackaged food items.



BULK FOODS

FDA Food Code Section 3-602.11

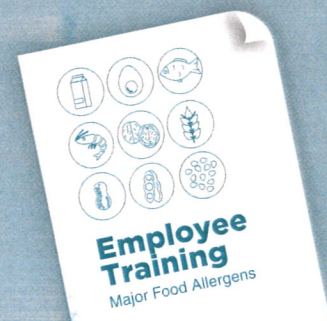
Bulk foods that are available for consumer self-dispensing need to be prominently labeled in plain view of the consumer with the name of the food sources from which the major food allergens are derived unless the food source is already part of the common or usual name of the ingredient.



EMPLOYEE TRAINING

FDA Food Code Sections 2-102.11 and 2-103.11

Employee food safety training programs must include food allergy awareness of the 9 major food allergens and should consider developing operational specific allergen training programs for employees.



The FDA model Food Code is the primary resource for compliance and enforcement of food safety provisions and information regarding major food allergens in retail food establishments. The model Food Code is neither federal law nor federal regulation. The model Food Code is provided by FDA for use by food regulatory jurisdictions for adoption at all levels of government.

For more information on the FDA Food Code visit our website at:
<https://www.fda.gov/food/fda-food-code/food-code-2022>

Scan the QR Code:
Allergic to Sesame?
Food Labels Now
Must List Sesame as
an Allergen

