

Food Manufacturers General Information

Who Must License as a Food Manufacturer?

Firms that manufacture food for sale to the public in the following manner are required to have a [Food Manufacturer license](#) with DSHS. This includes any firm that engages in the following activities:

- Processing and/or packaging any food product, including dietary supplements, ice, and water, for wholesale distribution or for sale via retail customer self-service.
- Selling vended or bottled water or bagging ice.
- Repackaging food products (eg. repackaging candy into smaller or larger packages), for wholesale distribution or for sale via retail customer self-service.
- Any Texas firm that places their name and address on a product label, even though another firm (co-packer) actually produces the product. This is called "private labeling." A private labeler is required to obtain a Food Manufacturer license.
- Packaging food and displaying the packaged food for customer self-service. This includes all retail food service operations that package and display food in this manner.

Examples of Businesses Requiring Food Manufacturer Licenses

Examples include but are not limited to the following food manufacturing operations:

- Bakeries
- Bottling/Canning plants producing sauces, salsa, condiments, jams, jellies, canned vegetables and fruit
- Bottling/Canning plants producing water, soft drinks, fruit juice, vegetable juice
- Dietary supplement manufacturing and distributing (see the [Dietary Supplements](#) page)
- Grocery stores with meat markets, delicatessens, or bakeries that package and display food for retail customer self-service
- Ice bagging or wholesaling
- Ice plants
- Juice packaging (see the [Juice HACCP](#) page)
- Packaging cut produce/vegetables, shelling and packaging nuts, and firms washing/packaging produce in a separate location from the farm where it was grown
- Restaurants and other food service operations providing food packaged on-site via a retail customer self-service display
- Seafood processors (see the [Seafood HACCP](#) page)
- Water vending/bottling (see the [Bottled and Vended Water](#) program)

For General Program Inquiries

Phone: 512-834-6670

Email: foods.regulatory@dshs.texas.gov

Website: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/foods/manufacturers.aspx>

All Packaged Food Labels Must Include

- Common usual name of product
- Name and Address of Manufacturer
- List of ingredients in descending order of predominance by net weight
 - Ingredient statements must be at 1/16 of an inch or larger
 - Ingredients must include components of the ingredients. {ie.: Enriched Bleached Flour [wheat flour, malted barley flour, wheat starch, ferrous sulfate (iron), thiamine hydrochloride (vitamin B₃), folic acid]}
 - The eight major food allergens {milk, eggs, type of fish (e.g., bass, flounder, cod, etc.), crustacean (e.g., crab, lobster, shrimp, etc.), tree nut (e.g., almonds, walnuts, pecans, etc.), peanuts, wheat, soybeans} must be declared using the common or usual name of the allergen
 - All certified colors must be identified in the ingredient statement. {ie: FD&C yellow 5}
 - Preservatives must be followed with statement of use. {i.e.: Calcium Propionate (preservative)}
- Net quantity of contents including metric measurements. Net quantity of contents must be separated from other text on the label and must be located in the bottom third of the label.
 - Specific details on the four basic labeling requirement list above can be found in [21 CFR 101.3, 101.4, 101.5, and 101.7](#).
- For beverages containing juice or that imply juice content, the percentage of juice must be declared on the information panel.
 - Specific details on the percentage of juice labeling can be found in [21 CFR 101.30 and 102.33](#).