



Ingredient Statement and Handling & Storage Instructions

Major Label Changes

There are 4 areas of major labeling changes for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food:

- Nutrition Facts Box
- **Ingredient Statement**
- Intended Use Statement
- **Handling and Storage**

Reasons for Changes

Ingredient statement regulations were updated to clarify the use of parentheticals and naming conventions for ease of consumer understanding.

Handling and Storage Instructions regulations and graphics were added to create consistency.

Key Changes | Regulation PF6. Ingredients

Naming

- As before, all names of ingredients must be in the same size, style, and color font
- However, scientific names of microorganisms may now be italicized
- Clarification regarding the naming conventions of meat, fish, and poultry
 - Meat or meat byproducts are derived from cattle, swine, sheep, goats, or any combination thereof
 - For ingredients consisting of fish, "fish meal," or "fish byproducts," the name of the ingredient may include "fish" without further specification of the type of the fish or if it bears a name descriptive of its kind (e.g., "ocean whitefish" or by using the acceptable market name(s) or common name (but not any vernacular or slang names) of the individual fish species in the ingredient as established by the FDA Seafood List)
 - Poultry or poultry meal are derived from chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guineas, ratites, squabs, or any combination thereof
- When sugar is listed in the ingredients, it can only refer to sucrose from sugar cane or sugar beets

Vitamin and mineral premixes:

- The premix may be declared in order of predominance by the name "vitamins" or "minerals," as appropriate, followed by a parenthetical listing of all the vitamins and/or minerals in the premix, each in their order of predominance by weight as listed on the ingredient statement of the premix label.
- New optional parenthetical format for listing common names of vitamins, chart 90.27

Minerals (Copper Sulfate, Zinc Sulfate, Manganese proteinate, Calcium Iodate), Vitamins (Vitamin E Supplement, Vitamin B₁ (Thiamine Mononitrate)), Beta Carotene, Rosemary Extract

Organic Claims:

- Organically produced ingredients may be identified as organic in the ingredient statement with the word "organic" (i.e., organic blueberries) or with an asterisk which is defined below the ingredient statement to indicate the ingredient is organically produced. (See AAFCO Official Publication for definition of Organic).

Regulation PF12. Handling and Storage Instructions

Handling and Storage Instructions on labels are optional. However, if present, they must follow the regulations.

- The instructions should have a bolded header: "Handling and Storage Instructions"
- Header is not required for small packages with a total printable area less than 40 square inches.
- Must be separate and distinct from any feeding directions.
- Must be displayed in a conspicuous manner.
- If graphics are used, only the graphics shown below may be used. These graphics and accompanying text are available on the AAFCO website.



SEPARATE
from
human
food



CLEAN
hands,
surfaces &
utensils



REFRIGERATE
unused
portions or
discard



**KEEP OUT
OF REACH**
of children



**KEEP
FROZEN**
until ready
to use



STORE
in a cool,
dry place



**THROW
OUT**
when in
doubt

This is not a complete summary of all changes to the Pet Food Model Regulations. Additional sections have some minor revisions. Please refer to the Official Publication for all details.

History of Pet Food Label Modernization

In 2015, AAFCO began the Pet Food Label Modernization (PFLM) project to update the Pet Food Model Regulations. The new model regulations are intended to enhance transparency and provide information in a format more familiar to consumers. These updates are for all pet and specialty pet foods, including complete foods, treats, food mixers, food supplements, veterinary diets, and daily foods.

[Learn more at aafco.org/pflm](https://www.aafco.org/pflm)

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