

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** March 16,2020

**Report Number:** CO2020-0009

**Report Name:** Colombia Proposes Nutritional Labeling Requirements

**Country:** Colombia

**Post:** Bogota

**Report Category:** FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

On February 26, 2020, the Colombian Ministry of Health (MinSalud) announced that Colombia will require warning labels on foods that are high in salt, saturated fats, and added sugars starting in 2022. This proposed regulation is separate from an earlier one that Colombia notified to the WTO that establishes sodium limits on a wide range of consumer ready products.

On February 26, 2020, the Colombian Ministry of Health (MinSalud) announced that Colombia will require warning labels on foods that are high in salt, saturated fats, and added sugars starting in 2022. The proposed labeling requirements are apparently the outcome of negotiations between the Colombian Government, the Colombian food industry and non-governmental advocacy groups advocating for more stringent nutrition-related regulations in Colombia. In addition, MinSalud announced that it will also adopt new requirements for nutritional facts labels on food products. MinSalud made the announcement through a press release but has not released the text of the proposed resolution yet.

The proposed nutritional labeling requirement is a separate regulation from an earlier one that Colombia notified to the World Trade Organization on July 26, 2019 (G/TBT/N/COL/238), that proposes sodium limits in a wide range of consumer-ready foods such as canned tuna fish, dairy products and processed products.

Below is an unofficial English translation of the MinSalud press release. The original press release in Spanish can be found at:

<https://www.minsalud.gov.co/Paginas/Colombia-tendra-etiquetado-nutricional-en-los-alimentos-ensvasados.aspx>

Begin Unofficial Translation:

## **COLOMBIA WILL HAVE NUTRITIONAL LABELING ON PACKAGED GOODS**

**02/26/2020**

**Press Bulletin #034 of 2020**

**Bogota:** As part of a new strategy to promote public health, and after dialogues with civil society, academia, and industry, the National Government developed an evidence-based proposal for nutritional labeling requirements on packaged foods for human consumption.

The principle objective is that nutritional information is clearly presented and easy for the consumer to understand. This moves the regulatory framework from voluntary to mandatory actions.

It was determined to have a front of package warning label, which will be monochromatic and will report if a product is high in added sugars, sodium or saturated fats. The established limits to require a label are harmonized with similar regulations in the region.

This proposal will look to also redesign the nutritional facts table, making it simpler and larger in order to make it easier to read. Additionally, it will be necessary to show nutritional content in 100 grams or 100 milliliters per portion.

The final step in the adoption of nutritional labeling in Colombia should happen by May of 2021 and it is estimated that these labeling requirements will be mandatory in November of 2022. These provisions will be implemented in approximately 18 months once the resolution is issued so that industry has time to make the appropriate adjustments.

The following are the proposed front of package and/or label warnings for foods:



**Attachments:**

No Attachments.