

NH MAPLE SYRUP



Label Requirements:

- ◀ Name, Address & Zip Code of Packer, Distributor or Producer
- ◀ True Name of the Product
- ◀ Volume of Contents (at 60 degrees F)
- ◀ Grade
- ◀ Product Code

If labeled as NH Maple syrup, the contents must be entirely produced within the state.

Contents may not be adulterated with any other sweetener or any substance that changes its characteristics.

Grade Requirements:

Maple Syrup—Density range of 36-37 Baume (66.9-68.9 Brix) at 60 degree F.

Grade A is pure maple syrup that:

- ◀ Is practically clear or better
- ◀ Has a good maple flavor practically free from damage
- ◀ Is free from serious damage
- ◀ Has the color-flavor designation;
Golden Color- Delicate Taste, Amber Color- Rich Taste,
Dark Color- Robust Taste, Very Dark Color- Strong Taste



“Processing Grade” syrup does not meet Grade A standards, shall not be packaged in consumer sized containers and shall be designated or labeled as “Processing Grade.”

Packing Requirements:

All Consumer Sized Containers shall be:

Hot packed at 180 F or higher

- ◀ Is free from (none) serious damage
- ◀ Of food grade material
- ◀ Have tamper evident seals

All Maple Syrup Containers, Caps & Closures Shall

- ◀ Be clean, sanitary & rust free
- ◀ Be stored prior to use so as to prevent contamination
- ◀ Not contain or be constructed of any substance which could damage the color, flavor, marketability, purity or safety of the syrup.

Please contact the Division of Regulatory Services if you should have any questions. You can call the Division at (603) 271-3685 email registrations@agr.nh.gov, or mail questions to:

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture
Division of Regulatory Services
PO Box 2042
Concord, NH 03302

Labeling Consumer Packages of Maple Products

Some producers of maple syrup are not labeling jugs correctly relative to producer, packer or distributor identity. This fact sheet is intended to provide guidance on the correct labeling of consumer packages of maple syrup, maple sugar, maple candy and other maple products.

In addition to the [New Hampshire Maple Law](#), there are several other laws and regulations that pertain to the labeling of food products and consumer products generally that may be applicable to maple producers, packers and distributors. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires certain information on all food products sold in interstate (between states) commerce. In addition, the federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act is incorporated into the Weights & Measures laws of many states including those of New Hampshire.

The NH Maple Law, RSA 429:14, I, states the following labeling requirement:

“Every shipment, package or container of maple syrup packed, sold, offered or exposed for sale or distribution.....shall include:

(a) The name, address and zip code of the packer, distributor, or producer.”

The maple law does not specifically state that the qualifying terms noted above (packer, distributor, or producer) be listed in association with the name of the firm. However, FDA requirements, general food product labeling requirements under the state Bureau of Food Protection rules, and the Fair Packaging Act provisions under state weights and measures laws, do require the qualifying term on the label, unless the named firm is in fact the manufacturer (producer).

Many maple producers are labeling packages without any qualifying term such as this example:

*ABC Maple Farms
PO Box 1000
Maplewood, NH 03000*

Products that are labeled similarly to the example above are considered mislabeled and a violation if the product in the container is produced (manufactured) by anyone other than the named firm. Labels like the above example imply that the named firm produces the product.

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A preferable label for a producer (one who manufactures maple syrup from sap) should read like this:

Produced by:
ABC Maple Farms
PO Box 1000
Maplewood, NH 03000
or;
Produced and Packed by:
ABC Maple Farms
PO Box 1000
Maplewood, NH 03000

The term “produced” should only be used on maple products you manufacture. If you buy in syrup from other producers and pack it, then the correct label for these products would be this:

Packed by:
ABC Maple Farms
PO Box 1000
Maplewood, NH 03000

In some cases a producer/packer may pack for other firms. Labeling for firms that neither produce nor pack maple syrup should read like this:

Distributed by:
ABC Maple Farms
PO Box 1000
Maplewood, NH 03000
or;
Packed for:
ABC Maple Farms
PO Box 1000
Maplewood, NH 03000
or:
Packed for and Distributed by:
ABC Maple Farms
PO Box 1000
Maplewood, NH 03000

The FDA food labeling regulations require a label to list the following:

- a. Name and address of the manufacturer, packer or distributor. Unless the name given is the actual manufacturer, it must be accompanied by a qualifying phrase, which states the firm's relation to the product, e.g., "manufactured for" or "distributed by."*
- b. Street address if the firm name and address are not listed in a current city directory or telephone book;*
- c. City or Town;*
- d. State (or country if outside the United States), and*
- e. ZIP code (or mailing code used in countries outside the United States).*

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Food Protection rules under He P 2331.04 state the following labeling requirement for all packaged foods: This section is the same as the provisions of the Federal Trade Commission's Fair Packaging and Labeling Act.

The name and address of the manufacturer's, packer's, or distributor's business which shall:

- (1) In the case of an individual, partnership, or association be the name under which the business is conducted; or
- (2) *In the case of a corporation, be the name of the parent corporation; or*
- (3) *Where the food is not processed by the person whose name appears on the label, the name on the label shall be qualified by a phrase which reveals the connection such a person has with the food, including but not limited to, "Manufactured for___", "Distributed by___", or any other wording which expresses the facts.*

New Hampshire

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Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner

The intent of all of these regulations is to provide the consumer with truthful information about the origin of the food product they are buying. Uniform and truthful label terminology also helps to assure the integrity of locally produced products.

Producers who sometimes buy in syrup that they then pack, may need to have different labels for each situation, one that says “Produced by” and one that states “Packed by.” Or, a single label that says “Packed By” would suffice for either situation.

Maple producers are strongly encouraged to begin reviewing their labeling procedures for compliance with the requirements noted above. It is this agency’s intention to provide a reasonable period of time for producers to comply before initiating compliance procedures.

Please contact NHDAMF’s [Division of Regulatory Services](#) if you need clarification on any of the material covered in this fact sheet. Our telephone number is 603-271-3685, or email to Jennifer.Gornert@agr.nh.gov