

GYS 9-3 : 2004
(First revision)

GUYANA STANDARD

**Specification
for
labelling of commodities –
Part 3 : Labelling of retail packages of cigarettes**



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Prepared by
GUYANA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Approved by
NATIONAL STANDARDS COUNCIL

GYS 9-3 : 2004

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Foreword

This Guyana Standard is the first revision of **GYS 9-3 : 1997, "Specification for labelling of commodities – Part 3 : Labelling of cigarettes"**. This standard was revised by the **Technical Committee – Consumer products** and approved by the National Standards Council in 2004.

In the revision of this standard, assistance was derived from the following publication: **Trinidad and Tobago Standard, TTS 76 10500 – Part 11 : 1995 (First revision), "Requirements for labelling – Part 11 – Labelling of retail packages of cigarettes"**.

This standard was reviewed to incorporate the requirements for tar group designation on the labels of retail packages of cigarettes manufactured, imported or repackaged for sale in Guyana, thus preventing fraud or deception from misleading labelling to the consumer.

Members of the Technical Committee – Consumer Products

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Mr. Chandradat Chintamani	Demerara Tobacco Company
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Specification for labelling of commodities - Part 3: Labelling of retail packages of cigarettes

1 Scope

This standard specifies the information, the method of display of such information, and the wording and presentation of a health warning to be included on the labels of retail packages of cigarettes intended to be sold in Guyana.

This standard applies to the labelling of all individual packs of cigarettes intended for retail sale in Guyana.

This standard does not apply:

- (a) to the labelling of collective units of such individual packs, irrespective of sizes. (For example, a collective unit may be a carton containing ten packs, each of which contains twenty cigarettes); and
- (b) cigarettes not containing tobacco.

2 Definitions

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions shall apply:

- 2.1 **cigarette:** Any finely cut and processed tobacco that is wrapped in cigarette paper which, because of its appearance, the type of tobacco used in the filler, or, its packaging and labelling is likely to be offered to, or purchased by consumers as a cigarette.

A cigarette may include other ingredients or additives, tips or filters.

- 2.2 **common name:** The name by which the product is commonly described in Guyana, or any name for the product that is commonly used in trade, art, craft, science, industry or occupation in countries using the English language (and includes any name in a Guyana Standard for the product).

- 2.3 **competent authority:** A Minister, Ministry, Department of Government, or Statutory Body administering any law regulating the labelling of cigarettes.
- 2.4 **distributor:** The person or organisation engaged in the wholesaling and/or retailing of cigarettes, directly after they are obtained from the manufacturer or importer. The manufacturer may be the distributor of his own products.
- 2.5 **label:** Any legend, word, mark, symbol, imprint, or design applied to or attached to, included in, or affixed to any retail pack of cigarettes, cartons and bulk packages.
- 2.6 **main panel:** The part of a label intended to be presented to the consumer or most conspicuous to the consumer at the time when the cigarettes to which the label relates is offered or exposed for sale, shall be legible.
- 2.7 **manufacturer:** The person who manufactures, produces, processes, prepares, packages and/or prepackages cigarettes for retail sale, or the person who sells any cigarettes under a trade name controlled by him.
- 2.8 **pack:** A fixed quantity of individual cigarettes, packaged and labelled for sale.
- 2.9 **package:** Any receptacle, container, wrapper, tin, box or confining band or cord, in or on, which cigarettes are sold, but does not include package liners, shipping containers or any other wrapping or box not customarily displayed to the consumer or purchaser at the point of retail sale.
- 2.10 **prepackaged:** Placed in advance of sale in the final package in which the cigarettes are intended for sale, and in which they are sold, used, or purchased without further prepackaging.
- 2.11 **retail sale:** The sale of cigarettes in small quantities (individual cigarettes) directly to the consumer.
- 2.12 **tar group:** The tar group assigned to a brand of cigarettes in accordance with **Clause 5 and 7.**
- 2.13 **warning area:** The surface area of the label of the package of cigarettes in which the warning notice is to be placed.

3 General requirements

- 3.1** Every retail pack of cigarettes, that is manufactured, packaged and/or imported into Guyana for sale, shall be legibly labelled in English language with the following information:
 - 3.1.1** The common name of the product and any trade name or brand name controlled by the manufacturer shall be on the main panel of the label;
 - 3.1.2** A correct statement of the net contents of the package (the number of cigarettes) shall be on the main panel and/or any other panel except the Health Warning Area;
 - 3.1.3** The name and address of the manufacturer or distributor for cigarettes manufactured or packaged in Guyana; and or
 - 3.1.4** The name and address of the foreign manufacturer for cigarettes imported into Guyana in a prepackaged form;
 - 3.1.5** The tar group designation, as specified in **Clause 5**;
 - 3.1.6** A health warning as specified in **Clause 4** and **6**; and
 - 3.1.7** A statement to indicate whether or not the cigarettes are filter- tipped.

4 Health warning requirements

4.1 Wording

Cigarettes manufactured, packaged and or imported into Guyana, shall be worded with the following health warning: "The Minister of Health advises that **SMOKING IS DANGEROUS TO HEALTH**".

4.2 Presentation

The health warning on the label of each retail pack of cigarettes shall be:

- (a) printed in Universe 57, Medium Condensed, 9 point, upper and lower case, and shall be clearly visible. The type size shall be relative to the dimension of the package;
- (b) printed in a colour appearing in the label of the package and which clearly contrasts with the background colour on which it is printed; and
- (c) in a frame or warning area, in conspicuous and legible type in contrast by typography, layout or colour, with other printed matter on the package.

4.3 Warning area

The warning area shall be separated from other material on the label by at least twice the height of the point size of the type in the printed health statement. It shall appear on any side of the package with the exception of the bottom.

5 Tar group designation requirements

5.1 **Designation:** The tar group designation shall comply with Table 1.

Table 1
Tar group designation

Range of tar per cigarette (mg)	Tar group designation
Less than 10	Low tar
10 but less than 18	Middle tar
18 and above	High tar

- 5.2 **Presentation:** The tar group designation shall be printed in Universe 57, 9 point, upper case type, or in other equivalent type style, which ensures that the tar group designation is conspicuous and legible at the point of sale.
- 5.3 The tar group designation may be accompanied by any text which the company considers necessary for legal purposes. Such text shall be printed in a type that will not distract from the group designation.
- 5.4 The tar group designation shall not be incorporated in a brand name; for example "SUCCESS Low Tar" is not allowed. The tar group designation shall appear on the label.
- 5.5 The tar group designation may be located in the warning area, together with the health warning. The type size shall be relative to the dimension of the package.

6 Labelling of imported packages

- 6.1 Where cigarettes are imported in retail packages into Guyana, the labelling requirements, and the wording and presentation of the health warning, and the tar group designation shall be as specified in **Clause 3, 4 and 5.**

7 Verification of the tar group

- 7.1 Tests for the verification of tar group designation in accordance with **Table 1**, shall be performed by laboratories recognised by the Guyana National Bureau of Standards for these purposes.

Laboratories shall be reviewed once per year to ensure compliance with requirements of the Guyana National Bureau of Standards.

- 7.2 When requested by the Guyana National Bureau of Standards, manufacturers and/or importers of cigarettes shall supply a test certificate satisfactory to the Guyana National Bureau of Standards as proof of compliance with this standard.

National Standards Council

National Standards Council is the controlling body of the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) and is responsible for the policy and general administration of the Bureau.

The Council is appointed by the Minister as indicated in the GNBS Act, 1984. Using its powers in the Standards Act, the Council establishes committees for specified purposes.

A Guyana Standard is a standard which has been approved by the Standards Council and one which reflects reasonable agreement among the views of a number of capable individuals whose collective interests provide to the greatest practicable extent a balanced representation of producers, consumers, users and others with relevant interests, as may be appropriate to the specific subject.

Preparation of Documents

The following is an outline of the procedure which must be followed in the preparation of documents:

1. The preparation of standard documents is undertaken upon the Standards Council authorisation. This may arise out of requests from national organisations, Bureau staff, or technical committees, or if none exists a new committee is formed, or the project is allotted to the Bureau's staff.
2. If necessary, when the final draft is ready, any other Minister who might be responsible for any area which the standard may affect, is approached to obtain formal concurrence.
3. The final draft document is made available for general comments. In addition, copies are forwarded to those known to be interested in the subject.
4. The Technical Committee considers all the comments received and recommends a final document to the Standards Council for approval.
5. The Standards Council approves the document and notifies the Minister for its publication.
6. On the recommendation of the Standards Council, the Minister may declare a standard compulsory.
7. Amendments, and revisions of standards normally require the same procedure as is applied to the preparation of the original standard.

Purchase of Guyana Standards should be addressed to:

**Guyana National Bureau of Standards
Flat 15, Sophia Exhibition Complex,
Sophia, Georgetown.
GUYANA.**