

Carina Nilsson

Labeling of imported pre-packaged foods in Malmö – Do the stores meet the National Food Agency’s labeling requirements?

The purpose of this thesis is to examine the compliance of the labeling law of imported pre-packaged foods in grocery stores in Malmö. 20 stores were studied. During the visits the labels of a number of imported pre-packaged foods were examined, and there was also a survey conducted about the store's food labels and their labeling routines.

The survey was usually answered by the owner or store manager. 80 percent of the respondents answered that they knew of the National Food Administration’s rules about labeling, but there were missing information and inadequate labeling in all stores. The most commonly missing labeling information was Swedish designation and the words "best before ..." in Swedish. Swedish designation was missing in 42 percent of the products, while "best before ..." was missing in 40 percent. 27 percent of all the examined products didn't have any Swedish labels at all. Those in the survey who said that they always had Swedish labels, very rarely had so when reviewing the results of the labeling examination.

In the survey responses there were answers which reflected many store owners' attitude that they saw the wholesaler as responsible for the labeling, even though the store owner is the one responsible according to the National Food Administration’s rules. The vast majority answered that they had received information about labeling from food inspectors, so just more information about labeling will unlikely help to curb the problem.

Advisor: **Nils-Bo Nilsson, Micaela Aleman**

Degree project 15 credits in environmental and health protection, 2013

Department of Biology, Lund University