

Unequal prepackages

- Unequal packages, also known as:
 - Prepackage marked with random nominal quantities,
or
 - Catchweight goods

Unequal prepackages

- Unequal prepackages are controlled by R 79, but not by R87
- Unequal prepackages may be subject to local regulations and requirements
 - For example, New Zealand does not permit any deficiencies from stated quantity

Unequal prepackages

An example of unequal prepackaged goods is meat displayed in supermarket chillers at random weights



Prepackaged Goods
 Nanning, China
 10-13 April 2018

Unequal prepackages

- Guidelines exist for negative errors for unequal packages within the ASEAN common requirements for prepackaged goods - unequal packages
- There are no procedures set out for sampling any unequal prepackages found at the same time

Unequal prepackages

- Because goods are all at random weights, volumes or length, each package is usually assessed individually
- Look for trends over all the individual prepackages, i.e. consistent negative error

Unequal prepackages

ASEAN common requirements for prepackaged goods has a guideline for permissible negative errors

For the first step in trade unequal pre-packages with weight indication are should not have errors greater error than below

Nominal Quantity Q_n in g	Permissible negative error in g
Up to 500	2.0
501 to 2000	5.0
2001 to 10000	10.0

Unequal prepackages

- Inspections are often carried out at retail premises and each prepackage is assessed individually
- There are no procedures set out for sampling any number of unequal packages found at the same time
- When a number of unequal packages are inspected at the same time and place it is appropriate to look at the trend over all the unequal packages of a particular category



Unequal prepackages

- Inspections may be:
 - Informal in nature, or
 - Formal in nature



Unequal prepackages

Informal inspection

- An informal inspection may be carried out during routine marketplace surveillance
- Carried out on a broad category of unequal prepackages i.e. meat
- Randomly select a number of prepackages of a broad category such as meat packs, vegetable packs or fruit packs
- Select goods packed in the same style and size

Unequal prepackages

Informal inspection: sample size

No. of Prepackages Available for Inspection (same kind)	No. of Prepackages to be selected
12 or less	4
13 to 99	6
100 to 500	12
500 to 3200	24
> 3200	36

Unequal prepackages

Informal inspection

- Weigh or measure the prepackages selected, deducting the tare weight where goods are marked with a net weight
- Remember previous slides on:
 - Used and unused dry tare
 - Extra labels / stickers added to the packaging
 - Soaker pads in the tray (fresh meat products)

Unequal prepackages

Formal inspection

- A formal inspection should be carried out as a result of finding non-compliance during an informal inspection
- Formal inspections of unequal prepackages are carried out on a specific category of unequal prepackages, i.e. prawns
- Randomly select a number of prepackages of a broad or more specific category of prepackages i.e. prawns, steak or lamb

Unequal prepackages

Formal inspection: sample size

No. of Prepackages Available for Inspection (same kind)	No. of Prepackages to be selected
2 to 12	All
13 to 99	12
100 to 500	50
500 to 3200	80
> 3200	125

Unequal prepackages

Formal inspection

- Weigh or measure the prepackages selected, deducting the tare weight where goods are marked with a net weight
- Determine the tare weight of the prepackage
- Take care to ensure an accurate and representative tare weight is obtained

Unequal prepackages

Formal inspection



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Formal inspection

- Weigh or measure the prepackages and deduct the tare weight
- Calculate the actual net contents and determine the error by deducting the stated net quantity

Gross Weight – Tare = Net

Net – Stated Quantity = Error

Unequal prepackages

Apply the guidelines from the table below or your economies law regarding unequal packages

For the first step in trade unequal pre-packages with weight indication are not allowed to have a greater error than below

Nominal Quantity Q_n in g	Permissible negative error in g
Up to 500	2.0
501 to 2000	5.0
2001 to 10000	10.0

Unequal prepackages

Formal inspection

- Where there are negligible deficiencies on only some of the prepackages
- A negligible deficiency is one where the deficiency is \leq the permissible negative error (g)
- Consider if it is appropriate to discount the deficiencies



Unequal prepackages

Formal inspection

Where there are deficiencies on all the prepackages:

- Check the equipment the trader has used to weigh the goods on for error to determine if this is the cause of the deficiencies
- Remember to use verified test masses and apply NAWI test procedures



Unequal prepackages

Formal inspection

Where there are negligible deficiencies on all the prepackages and the error is not caused by an error in the weighing instrument then:

- Educate the trader
- Schedule a follow up inspection
- Consider an oral warning
- Consider a written warning



Unequal prepackages

Formal inspection

Where there are deficiencies on all the prepackages and the error is considerable i.e. greater than the permissible negative error allowed;

- Educate the trader
- Schedule follow up inspections
- Issue an oral warning
- Issue a written warning
- Consider Prosecuting the trader



Unequal prepackages

Thank you for your attention

Any questions?