

R70. Agriculture and Food, Regulatory Services.

R70-520. Standard of Identity and Labeling Requirements for Honey.

R70-520-1. Purpose.

The purpose of this rule is to establish a standard of identity and labeling requirements for honey that is produced, packed, repacked, distributed and sold in Utah. Codification of this standard is meant to reduce economic fraud by controlling the pervasive, illegal practices of blending or diluting pure honey with low-cost syrups such as sugar, cane and corn, and representing highly processed honey as raw honey.

R70-520-2. Authority.

This rule is promulgated under the authority of Subsections 4-2-2(1)(g), 4-5-8(5), 4-5-6(1)(b), 4-5-15(1) and Sections 4-5-16 and 4-5-20 of the UCA.

R70-520-3. Definitions.

(1) "Honey" means the natural sweet substance produced by honeybees from nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, then deposit, dehydrate, store, and leave in the honeycomb to ripen and mature.

(2) "Blossom Honey" or "Nectar Honey" means honey that comes from the nectar of plants.

(3) "Comb" or "Comb honey" means honey stored by bees in the cells of freshly built broodless combs and sold in sealed whole combs or sections of such combs.

(4) "Raw honey" means honey:

(a) as it exists in the beehive or as obtained by extraction, settling, or straining;

(b) that is minimally processed; and

(c) that is not pasteurized.

(5) "Straining" means the process of removing particulate matter from honey by passing it through a metal or fabric screen or cloth with mesh large enough to pass pollen grains, enzymes and minerals.

R70-520-4. Standard of Identification for Honey.

(1) Honey shall meet the following standards:

(a) honey may not be heated or processed to such an extent that its essential composition is changed or its quality is impaired;

(b) chemical or biochemical treatments may not be used to influence honey crystallizations;

(c) honey may not contain more than 20 percent moisture content and for heather honey not more than 23 percent;

(d) honey may be not less than 60 percent fructose and glucose, combined; the ratio of fructose to glucose shall not be greater than 0.9;

(e) honey may not contain oligosaccharides indicative of invert syrup;

(f) honey, except for honeycomb and cut comb style honey, may not contain more than 0.5g/1000g water insoluble solids.

R70-520-5. Standard of Identification for Blossom Honey.

(1) Blossom honey shall meet the standards for honey in R70-520-4;

(2) Blossom honey shall not contain more than 5 percent sucrose, except for the following:

(a) alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), citrus spp, false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), French Honeysuckle (*Hedysarum*), Menzies banksias (*Banksia menziesii*), red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), leatherwood (*Eucalyptus lucida*), and *Eucryphia milligani* may contain up to 10 percent sucrose.

(b) lavender (*Lavandula* spp) and borage (*Borago officinalis*) may contain up to 15 percent sucrose.

R70-520-6. Food Labeled as Honey or Raw Honey.

(1) Food meeting the standards set forth in R70-520-4 and R70-520-5 may be designated "honey".

(a) The food may be labeled as "raw honey" if it additionally meets R70-520-3(4).

(2) Food containing honey plus flavoring, spice or food additive shall be distinguished in the food name from honey by declaration of all of the added ingredients.

(3) Food containing honey may be designated according to floral or plant source if the honey comes predominately from that particular source and has the organoleptic, physicochemical and microscopic properties corresponding with that origin.

(a) Food designated according to the honey's floral source plant shall have the common name or the botanical name of the floral source in close proximity on the label to the word "honey".

(4) Honey may be designated according to the following styles:

(a) honey in liquid or crystalline state or a mixture of the two may be designated as "liquid" or "crystalline";

(b) honey meeting the definition of "comb" or "comb honey";
or

(c) honey containing one or more pieces of comb honey may be designated as "honey with comb" or "chunk honey".

(5) Labels shall meet the requirements of Chapter 4-5-15 UCU.

R70-520-7. Misbranded Food.

Food labeled as a honey or raw honey, but not meeting the standard of identification or a labeling requirement in Sections four through six of this rule shall be deemed to be misbranded.

R70-520-8. False Food Advertisement.

Food advertised as honey or raw honey shall be considered falsely advertised if it does not meet the standard of identification or a labeling requirement in Sections four through six of this rule.

R70-520-9. Embargo and Destruction of Misbranded Food.

When an authorized agent of the department finds or has cause to believe a honey product is misbranded, the agent may follow the tagging, embargo and destruction procedures found in Title 4-5-5 UCA.

KEY: food safety, honey

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Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 4-2-2(1)(g); 4-5-8(5); 4-5-6(1)(b); 4-5-16; 4-5-15(1); 4-5-20