



September 7, 2018

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Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 152, Number 24: Regulations Amending the Food and Drug Regulations (Beer) – June 16, 2018

The Canadian Celiac Association (CCA) has recently reviewed Health Canada's proposed 'Amendments to the Food and Drug Regulations, Part B, Division 2 (Beer Standard and Ale, Stout, Porter or Malt Liquor Standard)'.

This proposed amendment states that 'Standardized beer is currently exempt from the labelling requirements set out in the Food and Drugs Regulations for allergens, gluten and added sulphite. The proposed amendments would allow the use of ingredients not previously permitted in the manufacturing of standardized beer, which could include allergens. To address these risks, the proposal would repeal the labelling exemption in the current Food and Drug Regulations. This would contribute to improved consumer health and safety and enable informed consumer choice.'

The Canadian Celiac Association, its Professional Advisory Council and its Board of Directors, fully endorse this proposed amendment.

Individuals with celiac disease require a life-long gluten-free diet to optimize their health, maintain their quality of life and prevent complications associated with this condition. The repealing of the labelling exemption would more reliably inform consumers about the gluten content of different beers and eliminate some of the confusion that currently exists. We are in full support of this amendment as it would benefit the health of the one per cent of Canadians that are affected with celiac disease.

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As a key consumer stakeholder, thank you for the opportunity to be consulted. Once the standards are approved, we would be pleased to assist in communicating the changes to our community.

We look forward to working with Health Canada and its partners in keeping food safe for all Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Secord'.

Melissa Secord, CAE
Executive Director

Cc: Treena Duncan, President, Canadian Celiac Association
Dr. Don Duerksen, Chair, CCA Professional Advisory Council