



1 Nov 2022

Food Safety Unit

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## MANDATORY COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABELLING OF MEAT AT RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS

Notifying customers of the country of origin of meat is mandatory at restaurants and other catering establishments from 1 May 2019 onwards. The country of origin of meat must be indicated in writing in an easy-to-notice brochure or sign, for example.

The country-of-origin labelling requirement concerns the following types of meat (**including minced meat**) when they are used at the catering establishment as **an ingredient in food, either fresh or frozen**:

- beef
- pork (excluding wild boar)
- mutton and goat meat
- poultry meat (chicken, goose, duck, turkey and guineafowl meat).

Take-away products and online trade are also subject to the same requirement.

The country-of-origin labelling requirement does not concern meat preparations (salted, spiced or marinated meat) received by restaurants and used as ingredients in food and meat products (cold cuts or sausages). The country of origin is indicated on the meat packaging, for example.

**The country of origin of meat means the country that the animal was raised in.**

The country of origin must be stated down to the country level, if the information is available: For example, meatloaf: beef (country of origin Finland), pork (country of origin Germany) or beef (Finland), pork (Germany).

If information on the country of origin of the meat is not available, the country of origin is indicated as 'EU' or 'outside EU' or 'EU and outside EU'. For example: chicken (outside EU). If the country of origin varies, the said indications can also be used, or if one wants to, the country of origin can also be indicated as two countries, for example, 'Poland or Brazil'. The labelling should not be misleading to the consumer, and, for example, the indication of 'Finland' should not be used, if the use of Finnish meat is an exception.

For more information on the subject, please see the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Decree [154/2019](#) and the Finnish Food Authority's website:

<https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/en/foodstuffs/food-sector/food-information/labelling/labelling-of-the-country-of-origin-of-foods/country-of-origin-of-meat-at-serving-points/>

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