

# Maple Syrup

## What is Maple syrup?

“Maple syrup” is defined in Chapter 3715 of the Ohio Revised Code to mean, “The unadulterated liquid food derived by concentration and heat treatment of pure maple sap or by reconstituting maple sugar or maple concrete with water to a density of not less than sixty-six degrees on the brix scale at sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit.”

## Does a Maple syrup producer need to acquire a license/registration to process and package their products?

A maple syrup processor, who boils sap when a minimum of 75% of the sap used to produce the syrup is collected directly from trees by that processor, is exempt from licensing, registration and mandatory inspection.

Upon request of a voluntary inspection, contact: Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Food Safety; 1-800-282-1955, Ext 4366.

## What are the requirements for the labeling of Maple syrup jars or containers?

Regardless of whether or not maple syrup is sold from home, a market or elsewhere, it must have a label (including maple syrup products gifted or traded).

1. Statement of Identity - the common or usual name of the food product;
2. Net Quantity of Contents - If sold ON SITE the label must declare the net weight in the U.S. Customary System (ounces), but does not have to have the weight in metric (grams). If sold OFF SITE the label must have both (ounces *and* grams).
3. Ingredient List - maple syrup is a single ingredient food; an Ingredient List is not required EXCEPT when using these optional ingredients: salt, chemical preservatives.
4. Statement of Responsibility - the name and address of the business.

The label should be glued or “secured”, however if the jars/containers are an unusual shape and sold for a special occasion, and the label cannot be affixed, it can be attached as a card.

De-foaming agents may be used as a processing aid during manufacture. Such de-foaming agents when used properly, being in insignificant quantities and having no function in the finished maple syrup, do not need to be declared in the Ingredient List.

Note: If nutrient content claims (i.e. low fat, salt free, etc.) or health claims (i.e. may reduce heart disease) are made, the product must bear all required nutritional information in the form of the Nutrition Facts panel. All labeling components are to comply with 21 CFR Part 101, food labeling. The FDA Food Labeling Guide is an excellent resource of the proper labeling of food products. The web-address for the FDA Food Labeling Guide is:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm2006828.htm>

## What are the requirements for new and reused packaging sanitation?

If packaging for maple syrup is to be reused it must be washed and sanitized. Closures shall not be reused. All packaging shall be free from rust on food contact surfaces and not contain any substances or be made from any material which could damage either the color or flavor of maple syrup. Some new packaging materials are labeled that they were produced and maintained/stored under sanitary conditions; if they are loosely wrapped or their source is questionable, it is suggested that washing and sanitizing is done.

## What are the Lead Tolerance Levels for Maple syrup?

Lead tolerance level for maple syrup	Action step
0 – 499 Parts per billion	Acceptable. A warning letter shall be issued by the director to any producer or processor whose maple syrup lead levels are greater than 250 parts per billion but less than 500 parts per billion.
≥500 Parts per billion	Maple syrup is considered adulterated in accordance with section 3715.59 of the Revised Code.

# **EXAMPLE LABEL OF BASIC LABELING COMPONENTS**

*Labels must comply with all applicable state and federal regulations. Labeling regulations for a maple syrup processor are the same as those applied to other food processors. All information on the label must be truthful and not misleading. The label example below is just one way to present the required information.*

**Ingredient List** – Most food products are required to have an Ingredient List declaring all ingredients by common or usual name in descending order of predominance by weight. Maple syrup is often a single ingredient food; an Ingredient List is not required EXCEPT when using the optional ingredients: salt, and chemical preservatives.

Ref: CFR 21, Part 101.4  
Ref: OAC 901: 3-45-02

**Statement of Responsibility**

– Shall include the:

Business Name  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip Code

All information in the *Statement of Responsibility* shall be continuous. If the business name is listed in the local telephone directory, the street address may be omitted. If the business name is listed in the local telephone directory, a Post Office Box may be used in place of the street address.

Telephone numbers, web-site addresses, and e-mail addresses are permitted, but not required.

Ref: CFR 21, Part 101.5

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

OAC – Ohio Administrative Code

ORC – Ohio Revised Code

FLPA – Fair Labeling Packaging Act

PDP- Principal Display Panel, is the portion of the package that is most likely to be seen by the consumer when on a store shelf. The Product Identity and the Net Quantity of Contents must appear in the PDP.

**Statement of Identity** – The *Statement of Identity* is the name of the food. The name shall be the common or usual name of the food, and shall accurately identify or describe the basic nature of the food or its characterizing properties or ingredients. Foods that have a Standard of Identity must conform to all requirements of the standard.

Ref: CFR 21, Part 101.3

# *MAPLE SYRUP*



OHIO MAPLE SYRUP COMPANY  
8995 E. MAIN STREET  
REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068

**NET WT 8 OZ (227 g)**

**Net Quantity of Contents** – The term “NET WEIGHT” or the appropriate abbreviation, “NET WT”, shall be used when stating the *Net Quantity of Contents* in terms of weight. When the product is distributed off of the site of production the *Net Quantity of Contents* shall be declared in both the U.S. Customary System and the International System (metric system). The metric declaration shall be stated parenthetically.

The quantity of contents shall be placed on the principal display panel. It shall be within the bottom 30 percent of the area of the label panel in lines that are generally parallel to the bottom of the package as it is designed to be displayed.

Ref: CFR 21, Part 101.105  
Ref: FLPA, Title 15 – Chapter 39, 1453(a) (2)