



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS

Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

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BUREAU CIRCULAR
No. 6-A s. 1998

**TO : ALL FOOD PROCESSORS OF PRE-PACKAGED
FOODS AND PARTIES CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT: PERMISSIBLE NET CONTENT VARIATION IN
PRE-PACKAGED FOOD.**

The attached chart entitled "Administrative Guidance; Maximum Permissible Variation In Weight and Volume Expressed in Terms Of Allowable Deviation From The Declared Net Content" marked as Annex "A" hereof, has been invariably used by BFAD in determining whether or not the net content declaration in the labeling is correct or truthful.

However, concerns have been expressed that a number of food processors of prepackaged food product are not clear on how to make use of the attached chart or Annex "A".

To ensure uniform interpretation on how to use the guide, BFAD hereby issues this clarification or explanation, thus:

1. A sample unit is considered defective if it does not conform with the prescribed tolerance for weight/volume variation. This also applies to variation in the declared drained weight.
2. Acceptance of defective units in a given production lot, attributed to weight/volume variation, shall be based on the CODEX Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods where Inspection Level I is applied for normal sampling operation and Inspection Level II is applied in case of resolving disputes.
3. For proposed foods packed in rigid containers, it is also required that the fill of the container shall at least be 90% of the water capacity of the container.

"Smoking is Dangerous to your Health"

p2

Furthermore, BFAD herewith provides for your reference the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Sampling Plans For Prepackaged Foods, consisting of two (2) pages marked as Annexes "B" and "B-1".

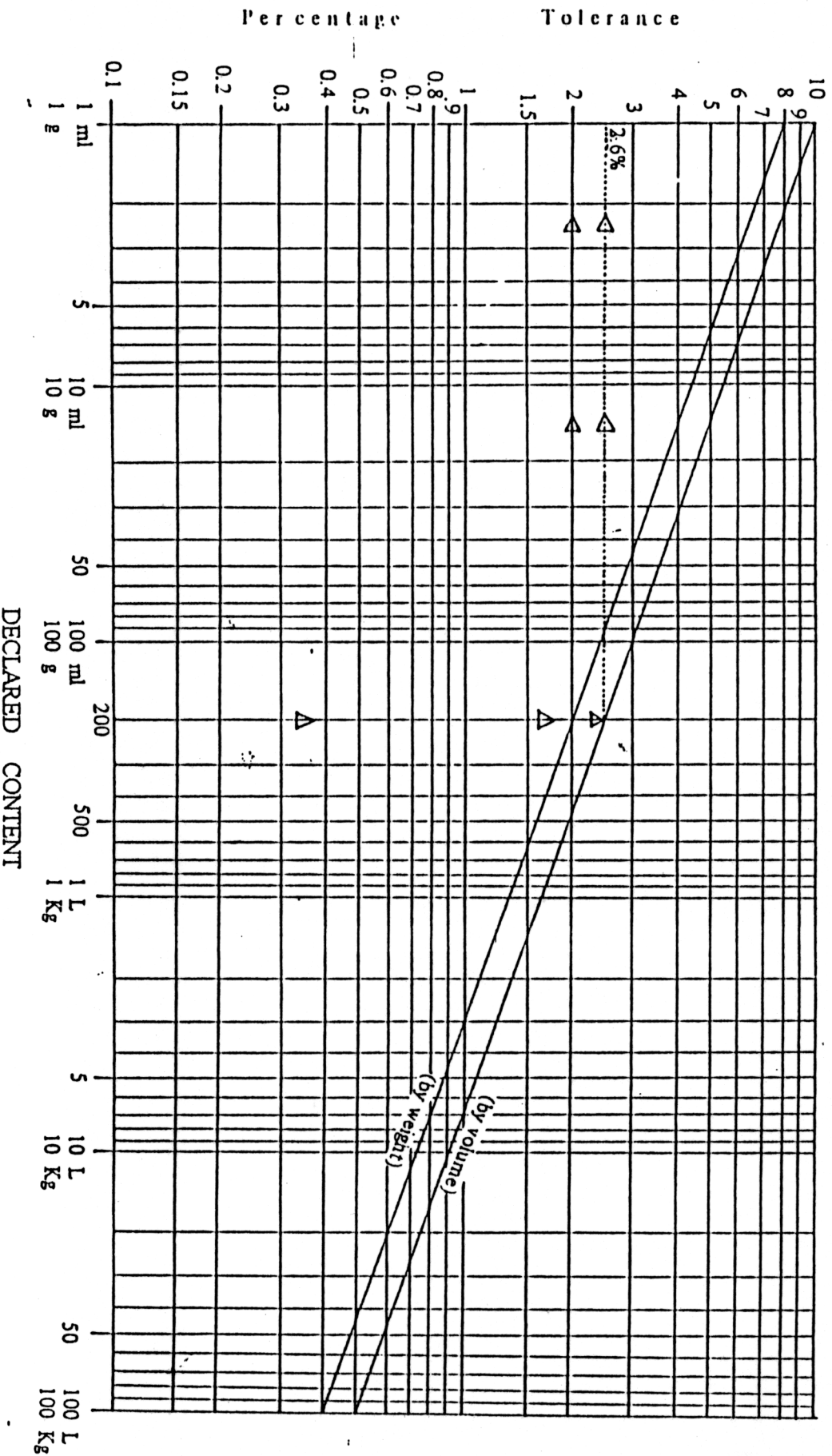
These chart and sampling plans will continue to guide both BFAD and the food processors/manufacturers or repackers in the determination of the accurate net content variations. In this same circular, we remind all parties concerned that an erroneous net content declaration can render a product misbranded or mislabeled.


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Director

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE

Annex A

Maximum permissible variation in weight and volume expressed in terms of allowable deviation from the declared net content



How to use the figure: Example, the declared net content is 200 g or 200 ml.
 Locate 200 at the horizontal axis of the figure then find the point of intersection with the diagonal line.
 Proceed to the left to find the corresponding % tolerance which is 2% for weight and 2.6% for volume.
 Hence, the weight range is 196 - 206 g and the volume range is 195 - 205 ml.

**FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
SAMPLING PLANS FOR PRE-PACKAGED FOODS**

A. Sampling Plan 1 (Inspection Level I, AQL = 6.5)

Net Weight is equal to or less than 1 kg (2.2 lb)

Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)¹
4,800 or less	6	1
4,801 - 24,000	13	2
24,001 - 48,000	21	3
48,001 - 84,000	29	4
84,001 - 144,000	48	6
144,001 - 240,000	84	9
more than 240,000	126	13

**Net Weight is greater than 1 kg (2.2 lb)
But not more than 4.5 kg (10 lb)**

Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)¹
2,400 or less	6	1
2,401 - 15,000	13	2
15,001 - 24,000	21	3
24,001 - 42,000	29	4
42,001 - 72,000	48	6
72,001 - 120,000	84	9
more than 120,000	126	13

Net Weight greater than 4.5 kg (10 lb)

Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)¹
601 or less	6	1
600 - 2,000	13	2
2,001 - 7,200	21	3
7,201 - 15,000	29	4
15,001 - 24,000	48	6
24,001 - 42,000	84	9
more than 42,000	126	13

B. Sampling Plan 2 (Inspection Level II, AQL = 6.5)**Net Weight is equal to or less than 1 kg (2.2 lb)**

Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c) ¹
4,800 or less	13	2
4,801 - 24,000	21	3
24,001 - 48,000	29	4
48,001 - 84,000	48	6
84,001 - 144,000	84	9
144,001 - 240,000	126	13
more than 240,000	200	19

**Net Weight is greater than 1 kg (2.2 lb)
but not more than 4.5 kg (10 lb)**

Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c) ¹
2,400 or less	13	2
2,401 - 15,000	21	3
15,001 - 24,000	29	4
24,001 - 42,000	48	6
42,001 - 72,000	84	9
72,001 - 120,000	126	13
more than 120,000	200	19

Net Weight greater than 4.5 kg (10 lb)

Lot Size (N)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c) ¹
601 or less	13	2
600 - 2,000	21	3
2,001 - 7,200	29	4
7,201 - 15,000	48	6
15,001 - 24,000	84	9
24,001 - 42,000	126	13
more than 42,000	200	19

¹ The acceptance number refers to the maximum number of defective units permitted in a given sample size for the lot to be considered in compliance with the tolerance for weight variation.