

Standard Label

Preface

One of the many results of AAPFCO's consensus efforts is the standard fertilizer label. The Standard Label is discussed and presented in this publication in one of its simplest forms.

The Big Five

Five required components must appear on a fertilizer label:

1. The Brand
2. The Grade
3. Guaranteed Analysis
4. Net Weight
5. Name and Address of the Registrant or Licensee

The Brand

The brand is defined as any term, design or trademark used in connection with one or several grades of fertilizer. The brand shall not be misleading or numerals may not be used in the brand that are misleading. An example of an acceptable brand would be "SuperGro Supreme."

The Grade

The grade is a shorthand representation of the guarantees for Total Nitrogen (N), Available Phosphate (P_2O_5) and Soluble Potash (K_2O) with each guarantee separated by a hyphen, "-", eg., 19-19-19. The grade must be in whole numbers except specialty fertilizers may be guaranteed in fractional units of less than one percent and fertilizer materials such as bonemeal, manure, ammonium nitrate, etc., may be guaranteed in fractional units.

Guaranteed Analysis

The Guaranteed Analysis states the manufacturer's guarantee for the claimed nutrients in a specific order and format. The format is as follows:

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS	
Total Nitrogen (N)	_____ %
_____ % Ammoniacal Nitrogen	
_____ % Nitrate Nitrogen	
_____ % (Other recognized and determinable forms of N)	
(Note: The forms of N must add to the Total Nitrogen (N) guarantee)	
Available Phosphate (P_2O_5)	_____ %
Soluble Potash (K_2O)	_____ %
Calcium (Ca)	_____ %
Magnesium (Mg)	_____ %
Sulfur (S)	_____ %
_____ % Combined Sulfur (S)	
_____ % Free Sulfur (S)	
Boron (B)	_____ %
Chlorine (Cl)	_____ %
Cobalt (Co)	_____ %
Copper (Cu)	_____ %
Iron (Fe)	_____ %
Manganese (Mn)	_____ %
Molybdenum (Mo)	_____ %
Sodium (Na)	_____ %
Zinc (Zn)	_____ %

Guarantees or claims for the above listed plant nutrients are the only ones which will be accepted and they must be in the order listed except when a nutrient is broken down into chemical forms, such as for N, then the breakdown forms may be in any order. If a nutrient is claimed, then it shall be listed in the Guaranteed Analysis. Zero guarantees are not allowed except in the chemical form break-down where they may be used if needed for clarity. Sources of nutrients, when shown on the label, shall be listed below the completed Guaranteed Analysis statement.

Net Weight

All fertilizers (bag, bulk or liquid) must be sold on the basis of net weight, avoirdupois. In addition, the net weight may be expressed in metric units.

Name and Address of Registrant or Licensee

The name and address of the person or company responsible for the guarantees on the label must be listed on the label.

Comments:

1. This label must appear in a readable and conspicuous form in the format shown above either (a) on the front or back of the package, (b) on the upper third of a side of a package, or (c) on a tag that is attached to the package. For bulk products, this same information in written or printed form shall accompany delivery and be supplied to the purchaser at time of delivery.
2. The order of **The Big Five** is not fixed as long as all are present and are in a readable and conspicuous place on the label.
3. Remember this rule: *If you claim it, then you must guarantee it.*
4. Standard label formats can accommodate any currently available fertilizer; however, if more claims and guarantees are made, the label becomes more complicated.
5. Subsequent publications will address some specific situations relative to labels that are more involved, such as slow release claims for one or more nutrients.

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