

# Maple Label Regulations: Is Maple Really Maple?

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**A**fter ten years of research and deliberation, the International Maple Syrup Institute developed uniform grade names that could universally be used to describe maple syrup. Most jurisdictions are now using the new grades. Once the international grades project was completed, the IMSI turned its attention to increasing maple's total share of the sweetener market from its current 1% to 2%.

Part of that effort has involved contacting food producers who are inappropriately using the word "maple" in the name of their food product without using any real maple in the product, and asking them to remove the word maple. This helps food companies understand that an international association will hold them accountable.

The chart on the preceding pages shows the range of labelling regulations used in different states and provinces. While some jurisdictions have minimal rules, others have very clear language about when the word "maple" can and cannot be used, helping to preserve the integrity of the pure products sugar-makers produce.

Adopting such regulations in your state or province might assist in weeding out the misuse of the word "maple" in your jurisdiction. Review the rules in other areas and consider if some of those might help protect your members' products in your state or province.

Keep in mind that regulations change often, and that not all regulatory language fits easily into a chart. See the websites below for complete language for each jurisdiction.

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**Maine:** [http://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/laws\\_and\\_rules/food\\_laws\\_rules.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/laws_and_rules/food_laws_rules.shtml),  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/7/title7ch101sec0.html>

**Vermont:** [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/food\\_safety\\_consumer\\_protection/  
consumer\\_protection/laws\\_regulations](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/food_safety_consumer_protection/consumer_protection/laws_regulations)

**Michigan:** [www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-50772\\_45851-240577--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-50772_45851-240577--,00.html)

**Pennsylvania:** <http://law.justia.com/codes/pennsylvania/2010/title-3/chapter-61/6109>

**Minnesota:** <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/rules/?id=1550.0570>

**New York:** [http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/FS/industry/04circs/  
maplesyrupansugarCIR947.htm](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/FS/industry/04circs/maplesyrupansugarCIR947.htm)

**Wisconsin:** <http://www.wismaple.org/state-fed-requirements/>

**New Hampshire:** <http://agriculture.nh.gov/laws-rules/index.htm#regulatoryservices>

**Massachusetts:** <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIX/Chapter128/Section36C>

**Ontario:** <http://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/110119#BK18>

**Canada:** [http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/food-labelling-for-industry/  
maple-products/eng/1392414400422/1392414462687](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/food-labelling-for-industry/maple-products/eng/1392414400422/1392414462687)

**Canada:** [http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/food-labelling-for-consumers/  
eng/1400426541985/1400455563893](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/food-labelling-for-consumers/eng/1400426541985/1400455563893)

**Quebec:** [http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.  
php?type=3&file=/P\\_29/P29R1\\_A.HTM](http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.php?type=3&file=/P_29/P29R1_A.HTM)

**US FDA:** <http://www.fda.gov/food/resourcesforyou/industry/ucm322302.htm#labeling>

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

# Maple Labeling Requirements

Required on label = ✓

| State/Province                    | Name of product. | Net weight of products other than syrup. | Contents by volume. | Name and address of manufacturer or distributor and zip/postal code. | Grade of syrup.                         | Ingredient list.             | 100% pure maple syrup made from sap.           | Maple products - % maple required on label.            |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| Maine                             | ✓                | ✓  | ✓                   | ✓  | ✓                                       |                              | ✓  |  |
| New Hampshire                     | ✓                |  | Or net weight.      | ✓  | Must be graded or labeled "not graded." |                              |  |  |
| Vermont                           | ✓                | ✓  | ✓                   | ✓  | ✓                                       |                              | ✓  | Only in liquid products.                               |
| New York                          |                  |  |                     |  |   |                              | ✓  |  |
| Ohio                              | ✓                | ✓  | ✓                   | ✓  |   | ✓                            | No adulterated or misbranded products allowed. |  |
| Michigan                          | ✓                |  | ✓                   | ✓  |   | ✓                            |  |  |
| Wisconsin                         | ✓                | ✓  |                     | ✓  |   | ✓                            |  |  |
| Massachusetts                     | ✓                |  | ✓                   | ✓  |   |                              | ✓  | All ingredients must be listed in equal size on label. |
| Minnesota                         | ✓                |  | ✓                   | ✓  | If graded, must meet USDA standards.    |                              |  |  |
| Pennsylvania                      | ✓                | ✓  | ✓                   | ✓  |   | ✓                            |  |  |
| Canadian Food Inspection Agency   | ✓                | ✓  | ✓                   | ✓  | Must be in English and French.          | Name is the ingredient list. | ✓  |  |
| Ontario                           | ✓                | ✓  | ✓                   | ✓  | ✓                                       |                              |  |  |
| Quebec                            | ✓                | ✓  | ✓                   | ✓  | ✓                                       |                              | ✓  | Ingredients by order of decreasing quantity.           |
| U.S. Food and Drug Administration | ✓                | ✓  | ✓                   | ✓  |   | ✓                            |  |  |

This chart reflects regulations as of June 2016.

| <i>"Maple Flavored Products"<br/>% maple in product must<br/>be listed on label.</i>                  | <i>Maple Artificial Flavors<br/>listed on label.</i> | <i>Imitation Maple Product<br/>Represented as Real Maple -<br/>Prohibited.</i>               | <i>Other labeling<br/>requirements.</i>   |
|---|--|--|---|
|   |  | ✓  | Spelling may be syrup or sirup. False information on label prohibited.  |
| Require 100% maple used as the flavoring product.   | "Artificial" must be conspicuous and clear on label. | "Maple syrup" and "maple sugar" are not allowed to describe artificial flavor.               | Spelling may only be syrup. 100% pure maple sugar or cream made from sap.   |
| ✓   |  | ✓  | 100% pure maple sugar or cream made from sap.   |
|   | Flavors and % must be listed on label.               | ✓  |   |
|   |  |  | Maple syrup retail outlets and processing facilities operated by the producer are exempt from licensure, if gross sales are \$15,000 or less but labeling requirement should read, "Processed in a facility not inspected by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development." |
|   | ✓  |  | Batch code.   |
| Require 100% maple used as the flavoring product.   |  | "Maple syrup" and "maple" not allowed on label if food product does not contain maple syrup. |   |
|   |  |  |   |
| Must contain a minimum 20% real maple syrup maple.  |  | Must use words other than maple on label.  | Country of origin. Registration number. Blended products require place of origin.   |
| Maple must be 15% of product and can not be called pure.  |  | Imitation maple flavor must be listed as "artificial maple flavoring."                       | False information on label prohibited. Blended products require place of origin.  |
| Advertising of a maple substitute must be different from publicity or advertising of a maple product. |  | Must use words other than maple on label.  | Province of origin required on label. 100% pure maple sugar or cream made from sap.   |
|   |  |  |   |

Consult your state and provincial authorities for clarifications and updates.