



Revised February 2018

Label Review Manual

Chapter 17: Net Contents/Net Weight

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What's changed in this version?

- Added *Table of Contents*.
- Added *What's changed in this version?* section.
- Updated hyperlinks.
- Editorial changes to text to improve readability.
- Switched order of Section III and IV.
- Updated Introduction section to include note on declaring net contents information on application form 8570-1, and leaving net contents information blank on draft label for refillable containers.
- Updated NIST Handbook 130 reference for Bag on Valve unit measurements.

I. Introduction

The Net Contents/Net Weight statement indicates the quantity/volume of pesticide product that is in the container and must appear on the pesticide label pursuant to [FIFRA12\(a\)\(1\)\(E\)](#) and [40 CFR 156.10\(a\)\(1\)\(iii\)](#). Usually, draft labels include the phrase “Net Weight:” or “Net Contents:” as a means of identifying where the statement will actually appear on the final printed label. [40 CFR 156.10\(d\)](#) describes how the net contents must appear on the label, but does not require the term/heading “Net Weight” or “Net Contents” to be stated on the label. However, the Agency strongly recommends that labels include one of these qualifiers for clarity, as [40 CFR 156.10\(d\)\(1\)](#) requires that the quantity listed describe the amount of pesticide product in the container as opposed to the total weight of the pesticide product plus the weight of the container. The amount of product may be left blank on the master label in instances where more than one size of packaging is offered; however, the applicant should declare the various net contents offered in Section III of the Application for Pesticide, Form 8570-1. Additionally, the net contents may be left blank for products distributed in refillable containers. [40 CFR 156.10\(d\)\(7\)](#).

II. Location of the statement

There is no required location for the Net Contents/Net Weight statement. The preferred location is at the bottom of the front panel below the company name and address. If the draft label under review shows the Net Contents/Net Weight statement in some other location, the reviewer may request that the statement be placed at the bottom of the front panel. The Net Contents/Net Weight quantity must be exclusive of any wrappers or other materials and shall be the average content unless explicitly stated as a minimum quantity. [40 CFR 156.10\(d\)\(1\)](#).

III. Expression of the statement

Labels must meet the following requirements:

A. Units of measure

Conventional U.S. standard (also known as avoirdupois or imperial) units of measurement must be used on pesticide labels. Pesticide labels may also declare net contents in metric units (liters, kilograms, etc.), as long as U.S. units of measurement are declared (e.g., “Net Contents: 1 gallon (3.785 liters)”). It is not acceptable to declare net contents only in metric units. For consistency, EPA requests that applicants treat Directions for Use the same way. For example, in addition to expressing the application rate(s) in U.S. units of pound per acre, the registrant may also express the rates in equivalent metric units as kilograms per hectare.

B. Expression of net contents

The Net Contents must be stated in terms of the largest suitable units. For example, for a package containing 26 ounces of pesticide product, the label must state: “Net Contents: 1 pound (lb.) 10 ounces” rather than “Net Contents: 26 ounces.” The label may indicate the net weight and quantity of individual units within the carton (e.g., “Net Weight 6.25 lbs. (20 – 5 oz. packets)”). [40 CFR 156.10\(d\)\(4\)](#).

C. Consistency with Directions for Use

The Directions for Use on the label should not require a quantity of pesticide product that exceeds the net contents/net weight of the package, as this may mislead consumers as to the net contents or net weight in the package or the proper application of the product. An example would be a granular product stating “Net Contents: 1 pound,” that requires an application rate of 5 pounds per acre.

IV. Types of products/measurement

The Net Contents/Net Weight statement shall be expressed based on the product type as follows:

- **Dry formulations** (e.g., solids, dusts, granules, pelleted or tableted baits, wettable powder, microencapsulated, and impregnated materials)
The net contents statement must be expressed as avoirdupois pounds and ounces. [40 CFR 156.10\(d\)\(3\)](#).
- **Liquid formulations** (e.g., soluble and flowable concentrates, ready-to-use sprays)
The net contents must be expressed in terms of liquid measure at 68 °F (20 °C) in standard American units (gallons, quarts, pints, or fluid ounces). [40 CFR 156.10\(d\)\(2\)](#).
- **Pressurized products** (e.g., gases and aerosols)
The net contents must be expressed as avoirdupois pounds and ounces. [40 CFR 156.10\(d\)\(3\)](#).
- **Antimicrobial wipes, insect repellent wipes, and towelettes**
The net contents per container for wipes and towelettes (wet or dry) must be expressed as avoirdupois pounds and ounces. [40 CFR 156.10\(d\)\(3\)](#). This requirement is imposed for the total contents of the overall container and not on the basis of each individually-

packaged wipe or towelette within the container. The net content statement is to be expressed taking into account the weight of the wipe material plus the weight of the pesticide added to the wipe, keeping in mind that the net content statement does not include the wrappers for individually-packaged wipes and towelettes. However, the net content declaration on the container may also include a statement such as *“Contains X count of x inch by y inch pre-moistened wipes.”* in addition to the avoirdupois unit.

➤ **Bag on Valve (BOV)**

Where a pesticide product container uses “Bag on Valve” (BOV) technology, the pesticide is contained within a bag, which is contained within a canister. In order to dispense the pesticide, pressurized gas is released within the canister, but outside of the bag. This squeezes the bag containing the pesticide, causing the pesticide to be expelled. The gas remains entirely within the canister, and the pesticide never comes into contact with the gas.

The U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) publishes “Uniform Laws and Regulations in the Areas of Legal Metrology and Engine Fuel Quality,” otherwise known as “NIST Handbook 130.” The 2018 edition of NIST Handbook 130 requires that packages using BOV technology disclose the net quantity of the commodity in terms of weight that will be expelled from the container, enforceable after January 1, 2018. See [NIST Handbook 130 \(2018\), Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation, Section 10.3, including Note.](#)

In the interest of consistency with the NIST regulations, the net content statement for pesticide products using BOV technology should be in terms of weight expressed as avoirdupois pounds and ounces, per [40 CFR 156.10\(d\)\(3\)](#).