

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

TO: Orange County Retail Food Facility Owners/Operators

SUBJECT: New Requirements for the Labeling of Untreated Juice

The Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law (Sherman Law) establishes labeling requirements for all packaged foods and drinks sold at the retail level. Sherman Law also incorporates all new labeling requirements finalized in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Section 110100 states in part,

"(a) All food labeling regulations and any amendments to those regulations adopted pursuant to the federal act, in effect on January 1, 1993, or adopted on or after that date shall be the food labeling regulations of this state."

A regulation regarding the labeling of packaged, untreated juice has recently been finalized in the CFR.

Numerous foodborne illness outbreaks have been linked to consumption of unpasteurized juice. The organisms that have been identified in such outbreaks are *E. coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella*. From 1996 through 2000, the consumption of unpasteurized juice has caused three outbreaks resulting in 580 illnesses and two deaths in the United States and Canada.

All juice containers are now required to have a warning label unless they meet certain minimum processing requirements such as provided by pasteurization. The warning statement is to appear on the container in a prominent and conspicuous manner on the principal display panel or the information panel. The wording is as follows:

WARNING: This product has not been pasteurized and, therefore, may contain harmful bacteria that can cause serious illness in children, the elderly, and persons with weakened immune systems.

The word "warning" must be capitalized and in bold type, and the whole statement must be set off in a box as shown above. This labeling requirement is mandatory for all packaged, untreated juice and for all packaged beverages which contain untreated juice.