

**هيئة التقييس لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية**  
**STANDARDIZATION ORGANIZATION FOR G.C.C (GSO)**



**GSO 839 / 1997**

**عبوات المواد الغذائية**  
**الجزء الأول : اشتراطات عامة**  
**FOOD PACKAGES - PART 1:**  
**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

**ICS:67.40**

# **FOOD PACKAGES - PART 1: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

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**Issuing Status : Technical Regulation**

## **FOOD PACKAGES - PART 1: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **1- SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION**

This standard is concerned with the general requirements for all packages of food materials, including metal, glass, plastic, paper, carton, multilayered textile, and wood packages, in addition to any other materials for packaging foodstuffs.

### **2- COMPLEMENTARY REFERENCES**

- 2.1 GSO 9/1995 “Labelling of Prepackaged Foods”.
- 2.2 GSO 124/1990 “General Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Boxes”.
- 2.3 Draft GSO Standard on “Hermetically Sealed Round Tin Cans Used for Canning Foodstuffs”.

### **3- DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1 Packages of food materials: Containers made from packaging materials suitable for foods and used for their containment, protection, and ease of use, such as metal cans, glass or plastic bottles, tins, paper, plastic and textile bags, wood and plastic boxes, paperboard containers, or any other types of containers including primary and secondary packages.
- 3.2 Primary package: Package that achieves the primary containment function where food is in direct contact with its interior surfaces.
- 3.3 Secondary package: External package which contains inside it the primary package for purpose of transportation, storage, distribution, and marketing.
- 3.4 Food grade material: A material allowed to be used in foods on condition that it does not cause any hazards or health problems.

### **4- GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Without prejudice to the packaging requirements stated in the GSO standards on food products, the following general requirements for all kinds of food packaging materials shall be met:

- 4.1 All materials used in fabrication, forming, or treatment of packages shall be of the food grade materials and in compliance with the relevant GSO standards.
- 4.2 They shall be clean, and in such a condition that does not allow any contamination of the packaged material.

- 4.3 They shall maintain the properties of the packaged material, and protect it from gaining undesirable odours, flavours and tastes.
- 4.4 They shall offer protection to the food product against contamination with micro-organisms, insects, rodents and dirt in the case of products where such protection is required.
- 4.5 They shall be impermeable to moisture in the case of food products wherever this is required.
- 4.6 They shall be impermeable to light and oxygen in the case of products wherever this is required.
- 4.7 They shall not affect the contents as a result of migration of some of their constituents that may react or be mixed with the food stuff.
- 4.8 They shall offer necessary protection against environmental conditions and mechanical hazards such as impacts, vibrations, static stresses, and they shall keep an intact appearance during handling.
- 4.9 The following shall be considered in the design of packages:
  - 4.9.1 Enough area shall be reserved on the outer surface to allow for writing of label information according to the GSO standard mentioned in 2.1.
  - 4.9.2 Ease of transportation, storage, and distribution operations.
  - 4.9.3 Ease of opening and reclosing shall be met in their design.
  - 4.9.4 To be designed in such way that is not misleading to the consumer.
  - 4.9.5\* Not have a form that implied falsehood, erroneous impression, deception or any form that may lead to the wrong impression for the consumer .
- 4.10 The package size shall be proportional to the size or quantity of the packaged contained material.
- 4.11 Packages shall be used only once, unless they are originally fabricated to stand washing, sterilization, and refilling operations, such as multi usage glass bottles.
- 4.12 The package shall not present any hazards to the consumer when used.
- 4.13 In case boxes are used for packaging fresh fruits and vegetables, they shall comply with the requirements stated in the GSO standard mentioned in 2.2.
- 4.14 In case of using hermetically sealed round tin cans for packaging foodstuffs, they shall comply with the GSO standard mentioned in 2.3.
- 4.15 The following shall be met during transportation, storage and handling of packages:
  - 4.15.1 They shall remain tightly closed to avoid exposure to any contamination till they are used.
  - 4.15.2 They shall be transported in suitable means of transportation so as to protect them from mechanical damage and contamination.

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\* The Item has been changed in the Board of Directors in its meeting No.(11), held on 5/12/1430h (22/11/2009G)

- 4.15.3 They shall be stored in suitable places so as to protect them from mechanical damage and contamination.
- 4.16 Ease to dispose of or reuse of such packages shall be observed