

**FOOD LAW (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 92 of 2000**

**289.7115 Sausage; contents; definitions; requirements.**

Sec. 7115.

(1) Sausage consists only of skeletal meat either fresh, cured, salted, pickled, or smoked. Poultry sausage may contain accompanying skin in natural proportions.

(2) Sausage may contain the following:

(a) Salt or spice, cure agents such as sodium or potassium nitrate or sodium or potassium nitrite, cure accelerators such as sodium erythorbate or ascorbic acid, all that comply with applicable regulations of the United States department of agriculture food safety inspection service or any other curing agents determined appropriate by the department or pursuant to rules promulgated under this act. As used in this subdivision, "curing agent" or "curing accelerator" means any substance added to meat to cause or enhance preservation of the meat product.

(b) Added edible animal fat from the animals specified, eggs or egg products, chives, tomatoes, parsley, peppers, onions, garlic, celery, seasoning, or other natural flavoring, honey, syrup, sugar, pure refined dextrose, or subsequent cooking or smoking.

(c) Not more than 3-1/2% by weight nonfat dry milk, dry whole milk, or calcium-reduced milk if it is declared in conjunction with the product name.

(d) Fruits, vegetables, or nuts, or a combination thereof, if the name of the product is so qualified.

(e) Not less than 12% protein. The protein content requirement shall not apply to pork sausage, breakfast sausage, or roasted sausage but the finished product shall contain not more than 50% of fat. Fresh sausage shall contain no added water, except to facilitate chopping or mixing and in an amount not to exceed 3% of the total ingredients. Cooked sausage shall not exceed 40% fat and added water.

(f) Fresh and fresh frozen sausage, smoked and unsmoked dry sausage, may contain antioxidants such as butylated hydroxyanisole, butylated hydroxytoluene, or propyl gallate, or a combination of these antioxidants, with or without citric acid, in amounts that comply with applicable regulations of the United States department of agriculture food safety inspection service. When such antioxidants are added, the label on the product shall declare the presence of antioxidants in the manner required by the United States department of agriculture food safety inspection service.

(3) Sausage shall not contain any extenders, artificial flavors, artificial color, binders, excess added water or ice, boric acid or borates, sulphites, sulfur dioxide, sulphurous acid, or any other harmful preservative, by-products, or variety meats. Extenders necessary to produce low-fat products may be permitted as described in rules promulgated under this act. No other parts of the animal or any other substance except as above specified shall be permitted in sausage.

(4) Harmless lactic acid bacterial starters may be used in an amount not to exceed 1/2 of 1%. When used, the harmless bacterial starter shall be included in the list of ingredients in the order of its predominance.

(5) The following products are considered to be sausage, whether processed or inserted in either natural or artificial casings or other containers: wieners, bologna, ring bologna, knackwurst, bratwurst, roasted sausage, breakfast sausage, pork sausage, chicken sausage, turkey sausage, leona, beer salami, cooked salami, Polish sausage, minced luncheon, kielbasa, bockwurst, all varieties of dry or semi-dry sausage, and other meat food products prepared in sausage form and excluding loaves, liver products, headcheese, sulze, blood sausage, potato sausage, kishka, tongue sausage, and New York or New England pressed luncheon.

(6) "Fresh pork sausage", "Polish sausage", "fresh kielbasa", and "fresh country-style sausage" are sausages prepared from fresh pork meat.

(7) "Italian sausage" shall be uncured, unsmoked, and contain at least 85% meat or meat and fat with no more than 35% fat. Italian sausage contains fennel or anise and may contain red and green pepper, onion, and garlic. Italian sausage shall be prepared from fresh pork meat.

(8) "Fresh beef sausage" is prepared with fresh beef meat and shall not contain more than 30% fat.

(9) "Poultry sausage or poultry-meat sausage" shall be made from fresh poultry meat containing the natural proportions of light and dark meat unless otherwise designated. The name shall be identified by the species contained if the product contains all its meat from 1 species. It shall not contain more than 30% fat. Poultry-meat sausage shall not contain skin.

(10) "Cervid sausage" shall be made from the meat of cervidae from approved sources. The name shall be identified by the species contained if the product contains all its meat from 1 species, such as "venison sausage" or "elk sausage". A person shall not offer for sale, sell, or expose for sale any other product described as cervid sausage. Fat of another species and approved source may be added to cervid sausage.

(11) "Wild game sausage" shall be made from or contain wild game. A food establishment shall meet all of the

following requirements with respect to wild game sausage:

- (a) Wild game sausage shall be identified by the species contained in the product, such as "bear sausage".
- (b) Wild game sausage shall not be sold and shall be labeled "not for sale".
- (c) A food establishment shall reject for use in wild game sausage any carcass that in whole or in part shows evidence of spoilage or disease.
- (d) If wild game that is not butchered by a licensed food establishment is made into wild game sausage containing wild game from more than 1 owner, the final consumer shall be provided with a written advisory stating "made from multiple wild game sources that did not receive whole carcass examination by a licensed food establishment". The text size of the advisory shall be a minimum of 11-point font in a color that provides a clear contrast to the background.
- (e) The following categories of foods shall be kept physically separated during storage and shall not be processed, prepared, or held simultaneously in the same space:
  - (i) Raw wild game butchered by a licensed food establishment.
  - (ii) Raw wild game from sources other than a licensed food establishment, except when added to raw wild game butchered by a licensed food establishment.
  - (iii) All other foods, except for foods that are added as ingredients to raw wild game during final product processing.
- (f) One of the following requirements shall be met:
  - (i) Food contact surfaces shall be thoroughly washed, rinsed, and sanitized between the processing of raw wild game butchered by a licensed food establishment, raw wild game not butchered by a licensed food establishment, and any other food.
  - (ii) Processing shall be done in the following sequence: foods other than raw wild game, raw wild game butchered by a licensed food processor, raw wild game not butchered by a licensed food establishment. After sequential processing, food contact surfaces shall be thoroughly washed, rinsed, and sanitized.

**History:** 2000, Act 92, Eff. Nov. 8, 2000 ;-- Am. 2007, Act 114, Eff. Apr. 1, 2008 ;-- Am. 2014, Act 428, Imd. Eff. Dec. 30, 2014

**Compiler's Notes:** Sec. 1117 of Act 92 of 2000 provides: "Sec. 1117. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), this act takes effect 6 months after the date of enactment." (2) Until 6 months after the effective date of this act, compliance with the standards of the design, construction, and equipment of a food service establishment approved under former sections 12901, 12902, 12903, 12904, 12905a, 12906, 12907, 12908, 12910, 12911, 12912, 12913, 12916, and 12921 of the public health code, MCL 333.12901, 333.12902, 333.12903, 333.12904, 333.12905a, 333.12906, 333.12907, 333.12908, 333.12910, 333.12911, 333.12912, 333.12913, 333.12916, and 333.12921, is considered compliance with this act. (3) Beginning 6 months after the effective date of this act, a food service establishment shall comply with the standards of design, construction, and equipment established under this act."