

FDA head says menu labeling 'thorny' issue

March 12 2013, by Mary Clare Jalonick

(AP)—Diners will have to wait a little longer to find calorie counts on most restaurant chain menus, in supermarkets and on vending machines.

The head of the [Food and Drug Administration](#) says writing a new menu labeling law "has gotten extremely thorny" as the agency tries to figure out who should be covered by it.

The 2010 [health care law](#) charged the FDA with requiring restaurants and other establishments that serve food to put [calorie counts](#) on menus and in vending machines. The agency issued a proposed rule in 2011, but the final rules have since been delayed as some non-restaurant establishments have lobbied hard to be exempt.

The FDA has said the rules may come out this spring, but the agency may not meet that deadline.

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Citation: FDA head says menu labeling 'thorny' issue (2013, March 12) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-03-fda-menu-thorny-issue.html>

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