

Made-to-Order Labeling Basics

What a barcode built for build-to-order items actually needs to carry

Companion checklist to “Made-to-Order Labeling: Speed, Accuracy, and One Barcode” · BOHA! by TransAct

01 AT A GLANCE

87%

Overall drive-thru order accuracy in 2025 — down from 89% the year before

62%

Of incorrect orders traced back to customization, not the base item

9

Major allergens that must be disclosed under the FDA's FASTER Act

39%

Share of 2025 FDA recalls tied to allergens — the single largest cause

02 FIVE THINGS YOUR LABEL NEEDS TO CARRY

- 1 Full modification data**
Every add, sub, and swap made on that specific ticket — not just the base item's default build.
- 2 Complete allergen disclosure**
All nine major allergens, tracked ingredient by ingredient as the modification actually happens.
- 3 Prep and handling instructions**
Whatever a reviewer or a shift lead would need to know later about how the item was assembled.
- 4 A barcode format with real capacity**
Standard barcodes run out of room fast once modifications stack up. Multi-layer or QR formats hold the full build without a second sticker.
- 5 A direct line to order data**
The label should generate from the same data already on the ticket — not get re-keyed or hand-selected as a separate step.

03 SELF-CHECK: IS YOUR CURRENT SETUP READY?

SIGN IT'S WORKING

- ✓ Label prints automatically from order data
- ✓ One barcode holds the entire build
- ✓ Allergen data updates the moment a recipe changes
- ✓ A shift lead can scan and verify what's on the label

SIGN IT'S NOT

- ✗ Someone hand-selects or writes in modifications
- ✗ Multiple stickers or a second label per modification
- ✗ Printed reference sheets get updated “when someone gets to it”
- ✗ Verifying a label means trusting handwriting or memory

04 WHERE THIS FITS

Made-to-order labeling is one piece of a location's broader food prep and labeling program — it only holds up if the recipe and allergen data behind it is centrally managed and current across every location. Use this checklist alongside your recipe change process, not in isolation.

[Read the full analysis: Made-to-Order Labeling: Speed, Accuracy, and One Barcode →](#)