

Reading the fine print, episode 3: What's in the bottle?

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Caught out by the FDA. I happened to be in the bug spray section of the store when I spotted a bottle of mosquito repellent that proudly proclaimed “100% DEET”. But the FDA-mandated labelling tells a different story:

Active ingredients

95%

N, N diethyl-*m*-toluamide

5%

Other isomers

Similarly, foods labeled “zero fat” are actually allowed to contain up to a half gram of fat. (Well, up to but not including.) This is a definition of “zero” with which I had previously been unfamiliar.

([Episode 1](#), [Episode 2](#).)

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