

# Regulation of Nutritional Composition and Nutrition Labelling – the International Scene

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Legislative Proposal Relating to  
Formula Products and Foods Intended for  
Infants and Young Children under the Age of  
36 Months in Hong Kong

Technical Meeting with Trade  
15 November 2012

# Overview

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- Codex requirement
  - a) Relevant standards
  - b) 4 major food entities for infants and young children
  - c) Nutritional composition requirements for different entities
  - d) Nutrition labelling requirements for different entities
  - e) Stance on nutrition claims and health claims
- Overseas requirement

# Codex requirement



# a). Relevant standards

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- ❑ On nutritional composition and nutrition labelling for formulae/foods for 36 months or younger
  - Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants (Codex Stan 72-1981);
  - Codex Standard for Follow-up Formula (Codex Stan 156-1987);
  - Codex Standard for Canned Baby Foods (Codex Stan 73-1981); and
  - Codex Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (Codex Stan 74-1981)

## a). Relevant standards (cont'd)

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- On labelling and claims for other foods for special dietary uses and special medical purposes
  - General Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Codex Stan 146-1985); and
  - Codex Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Foods for Special Medical Purposes (Codex Stan 180-1991)

## b) 4 major food entities for infants and young children

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- Infant formula:
  - Breast-milk substitute specially manufactured to satisfy, by itself, the nutritional requirements of infants during the first months of life up to the introduction of appropriate complementary feeding
  
- Follow-up formula:
  - Food intended for use as a liquid part of the weaning diet for the infant from the 6th months on and for young children

## b) Processed cereal-based food

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- ❑ Food intended for feeding infants as a complementary food generally from the age of 6 months onwards, taking into account infants' individual nutritional requirements, and for feeding young children as part of a progressively diversified diet
- Prepared primarily from one or more milled cereals, which should constitute at least 25% of the final mixture on a dry weight basis
- Specific requirements for each of the 4 categories:
  - ❑ Cereal to be prepared with milk/nutritious liquids
  - ❑ Cereal with an added high protein food
  - ❑ Uncooked pasta
  - ❑ Rusk and biscuits

## b) Baby food

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- Foods intended primarily for use during the normal infant's weaning period and also for the progressive adaptation of infants and children to ordinary food
  - In ready-to-eat form, or
  - In dry form requiring constitution with water only



# c) Nutritional composition requirements for different entities



# Infant formula and follow-up formula

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## □ Main requirements

- Infant formula: Energy + 33 nutrients
- Follow-up formula: Energy + 25 nutrients
  - Minimum permitted level: set for all nutrients
  - Maximum level: only set for some nutrients

## □ Other requirements, e.g.

- Proportion of selected nutrients
- Constituents of selected nutrients

# Processed cereal-based food and canned baby food

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## □ Main requirements

- More heterogeneous than for formula products
- Consistent requirement on sodium content (on a ready-to-eat basis), NOT allowed to exceed
  - Processed cereal-based foods: 100 mg/100kcal
  - Canned baby foods: 200mg/100g

# d) Nutrition labelling requirement for different entities



# General principle

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- If a compositional requirement for the nutrient has been defined in the relevant standard document, the nutrient content in the food will usually be required to be listed on the nutrition label

# e) Stance on nutrition claims and health claims

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# Codex's stance on nutrition claims and health claims

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## □ Nutrition claims

- Should be consistent with national nutrition policy and only nutrition claims that support national nutrition policy should be allowed

## □ Health claims

- Should be consistent with national health policy, including nutrition policy, and support such policies where applicable
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- Nutrition claims and health claims shall not be permitted for formula products and foods intended for infants and young children except where specifically provided for in relevant national legislation

# Overseas requirement





# Reviewing 5 jurisdictions

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- Examined the regulatory control in Singapore, the United States (US), Australia and New Zealand (ANZ), Mainland and the European Union (EU)
  - Infant formula: regulated in similar manner
  - Follow-up formula\* and other foods intended for under 36 months: Codex requirement on nutritional composition and nutrition labelling adapted to different levels

\*Also known as follow-on formula in ANZ and EU

# Level of adaption of Codex framework in major countries

	Formula products	Foods for below 36 months
<b>Codex</b>	<b>Age range:</b> 0-36 months -Infant formula (0-complementary feeding) (<12 months) -Follow-up formula (6-36 months)	<b>Age range:</b> 6-36 months -Processed cereal-based foods (6-36 months) -Canned baby foods (weaning-36 months)
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>Age range:</b> 0-12 months -Infant formula (0 or above)	<b>Age range:</b> 6-12 months -Infants foods (6-12 months) [only safety control specified]
<b>US</b>	<b>Age range:</b> 0-12 months -Infant formula (0-12 months)	Not defined (covered as general food)
<b>ANZ</b>	<b>Age range:</b> 0-12 months -Infant formula (0-4 to 6 months) -Follow-on formula (6-12 months)	<b>Age range:</b> 4-12 months -Cereal-based foods (4-12 months) -Non-cereal-based foods (4-12 months)
<b>China</b>	<b>Age range:</b> 0 - 36 months -Infant formula (0-6 months) -Older infants and young children formula (6-36 months)	<b>Age range:</b> 6-36 months -Cereal-based complementary foods for infants and young children (6-36 months) -Canned complementary foods for infants and young children (6-36 months)
<b>EU</b>	<b>Age range:</b> 0-12 months -Infant formula (0-complementary feeding) (<12 months) -Follow-on formula (complementary feeding-12 months)	<b>Age range:</b> 4-36 months -Processed cereal-based foods (4-36 months) -Baby foods (4-36 months)

# Thank You!

