Regulation of Nutritional Composition and Nutrition Labelling – the International Scene

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

- **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

- 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)

- 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

- **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

- 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

- 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

- **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

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/100 kcal
  - Canned baby foods: 200 mg/100 g
d) Nutrition labelling requirement for different entities
General principle

- 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
Codex’s stance on nutrition claims and health claims

- **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

- 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
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

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