

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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Minutes of a Technical Meeting with Trade on the Labelling Scheme on Nutrition Information (Manufacturers' Subgroup) held on 28 September 2007 at 2:30 p.m. in Conference Room, 4th Floor, Edinburgh Place, Central

PRESENT:

Government Representatives

Dr HO Yuk-yin	Consultant (Community Medicine), FEHD	(Chairman)
Ms Kay KWOK	Assistant Secretary, FHB	
Ms Heidi HUNG	Senior Administrative Officer (Food and Public Health), FEHD	
Dr Anna WONG	Head (Risk Assessment Section), FEHD	
Dr Stephen CHUNG	Senior Chemist (Food Research laboratory), FEHD	
Mr LEUNG Sui-sum	Superintendent (Risk Assessment), FEHD	
Mr CHUNG Kwok-wah	Chief Health Inspector (Food Labelling), FEHD	
Ms Jacqueline FUNG	Scientific Officer (Risk Assessment), FEHD	(Note-taker)

Trade Representatives

Mr LAU Kin Wah	Hong Kong Kowloon Chamber of Commerce
Ms Julie LAM	Arome Bakery (HK) Co. Ltd.
Ms May KAN	Coca-Cola China Ltd.
Ms Susanna CHING	Favour Capital Company Ltd.
Ms LING Pui Yee	Golden Resources Development International Ltd.
Mr CHAN Chi Ming	Hop Hing Oil Factory Ltd.
Ms Jessica CHUI	Kjeldsens Cookies
Ms Mona WONG	Lee Kum Kee International Holdings Ltd.
Mr Stephen CHOI	Lee Kum Kee International Holdings Ltd.
Mr Charles SIT	Maxim's Caterers Ltd.
Ms Juliana CHAN	Maxim's Food Production Centre
Mr LAM Tsz Mau	Nissin Foods Co., Ltd.
Ms TANG Yuen Man	Nissin Foods Co., Ltd.

Ms Stephanie SHUM	Saint Honore Cake Shop Ltd.
Ms LEE Wai Yee	ITO YA Japanese Cakes & Bakery Group Ltd.
Ms YEUNG Tsz Lai	Tai Pan Bread & Cakes Co., Ltd.
Ms Angela WONG	The Garden Co., Ltd.
Mr Samuel CHAN	The Garden Co., Ltd.
Mr CHAN Chi Kong	Vitasoy International Holdings Ltd.
Mr CHAN Wai Choi	Wing Wah Food Manufactory Ltd.
Ms Joan LAI	Wing Wah Food Manufactory Ltd.
Mr LEUNG Man Hon	Wing Wah Food Manufactory Ltd.
Ms Lily SUM	Wing Wah Food Manufactory Ltd.
Mr Ric LAM	Wing Wah Food Manufactory Ltd.
Ms Vicky NG	Wing Wah Food Manufactory Ltd.
Ms LAM Siu Ping	Winner Food Products Ltd.
Ms Polly HUANG	The Garden Co., Ltd.
Ms Sylvaine SIU	US Dairy Export Council

Welcoming Remarks

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the trade representatives. He stressed that the proposal presented at the meeting was for discussion and the content had not been finalized. He urged the trade representatives to actively participate in the discussion.

Agenda Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2005 were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda Item 2

Revised Proposal on the Labelling Scheme on Nutrition Information

3. Ms FUNG briefed the meeting on the revised proposal of the Labelling Scheme on Nutrition Information. She remarked that the presentation provided a framework for discussion and the contents were subject to revision. After the

presentation, the Chairman invited comments and questions from the trade representatives.

Phased Approach and Grace Period

4. One of the trade representatives agreed with one-phased approach; however, he commented that a two-year grace period was considered too short, particularly for products with 2+ years of shelf-life. Another trade representative echoed the comment and suggested the Administration to consider a three-year grace period. With regard to the phased approach, some participants preferred the two-phased approach, with the first phase being “Mandatory nutrition labelling when with claims” and the second phase being “Mandatory nutrition labelling for all prepackaged foods”.

5. The Chairman explained that owing to (i) the demand of the public and LegCo members and (ii) the reduction in the number of core nutrients, the Administration therefore proposed the one-phased approach with a two-year grace period.

Core Nutrients

6. A trade participant indicated that the Mainland authority proposed a nutrition labelling scheme covering only prepackaged products with claims and required only energy + 3 core nutrients (protein, carbohydrate and total fat) on nutrition labels. She enquired whether the Administration would consider the same approach. The Chairman indicated that the Administration made reference to other nutrition labelling regulations, however, the Administration did not consider “Energy + 3”, because (i) Hong Kong and the Mainland were at different developing stages; and (ii) the results of the Regulatory Impact Assessment showed that “Energy +3” would not yield any net benefits.

Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs)

7. A trade representative noted that there were different sets of NRVs commonly in use; she asked which set would be applied in the proposed scheme. The Chairman informed the meeting that the issue on NRV was discussed among the Mainland and local experts. It was agreed that the set of NRV for the Mainland Scheme would also be applied in Hong Kong.

Compliance

8. A participant enquired about the compliance test and asked whether or not CFS would accept calculated data (i.e., indirect analysis). The Chairman replied that CFS would conduct laboratory testing to determine the compliance of samples. However, both results from laboratory testing and calculated figures based on food composition data (i.e., indirect analysis) would be acceptable as sources of information for nutrition labels.

Agenda Item 3 Technical Issues on Nutrition Labelling

Technical Guidance Notes (Draft)

9. Ms FUNG introduced the overview of the draft of the Technical Guidance Note with details of the rounding rules and tolerance limits presented (Annex I).

10. The Chairman told the meeting that the draft of the Technical Guidance Note would be made available at the upcoming technical meeting. He urged the trade representatives to offer comments so that the draft could be more comprehensive and be of use to the trade. He added that in addition to the Technical Guidance Note, the Administration would conduct workshops for the trade after the enactment of the regulations.

11. Dr WONG supplement that there would be a web-based food label calculator, which would facilitate the trade in making nutrition labels, provided that the trade input the necessary nutrient information about the ingredients used.

Agenda Item 4

Any Other Business

12. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.