

Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you for the consultation on Nutrition and Health Claims on Infant Formula, Follow-up Formula and Prepackaged Foods for Infants and Young Children Under the Age of 36 Months. Below please find the feedbacks of our company:

In the actual situation of Hong Kong, Hong Kong does not have manufacturers for baby milk formulas and young children foods. Hong Kong needs to import milk formula and young children foods from other countries. Hong Kong is a small city and it is not possible for some international manufacturers to produce special Hong Kong packaging. Instead of just looking at Codex, Hong Kong should adopt international standards and take special reference to developed countries, like European Union, United States, Australia and New Zealand for allowing quality products from good manufacturing countries able to import to Hong Kong. These can provide more choices to consumers and avoid monopoly.

There are some claims which are allowed in other countries and able to sell around the world. For examples, claims of "lactose free" are allowed in European Union, United States, Australia and New Zealand. Hong Kong should also follow the international standards. For the other claims, like below, can the government also clarify whether they will be affected by the new legislation proposal?

- Steam cooked
- Pure flavor for taste learning
- Full traceability of ingredients
- Without thickeners
- No added salts
- No fillers
- No gluten
- No GMO's
- Covers nutritional and physiological needs of babies at that stage
- A balanced essential fatty acids ratio
- Optimum source of essential fatty acids
- Well-balanced multi-carbohydrate sources
- Good source of vitamin and minerals
- 適合敏感人士食用

Among them, some are not related to nutrition and health claims. We hope the new legislation will not affect such normal claims. In the future, can the government provide clear guidelines for the industry to know whether claims like above will be affected by the new legislation?

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Some of the products have shelf life of several years and still on the shelves of different shops. If the grace periods are short, it is difficult for the manufacturers to change the packaging. Moreover, the new regulatory will affect not only baby milk formulas products, but also infant and young children foods. As it will affect a lot of products, it will be better if there is a grace period of three years for the manufacturers and importers to adapt. Furthermore, the date of starting calculating three years should be effective after the industry getting the specific technical and method guidance notes instead of legislation timing for allowing the industry to adapt after knowing how to adapt.

We hope the government can seriously take reference of other developed countries when setting the new regulations.

Best regards,