

Circular

30 August 2019

To all Food Importers / Manufacturers

All declaring agents are requested to inform the importers of the contents of this circular.

Dear Sir/Madam

FOOD (AMENDMENT NO. 2) REGULATIONS 2019

The Food (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2019 will come into operation on 1 September 2019.

2. This set of amendments would apply to all infant formula. Infant formula would refer to formula that is sold as an alternative to human milk for feeding of infants, where “infant” means a person not more than 12 months of age.

3. The scope of the amendments to the Food Regulations relating to the labelling and advertising of infant formula is summarised below:

- Certain types of claims or representations will not be allowed on the label or advertisement of infant formula; these include:
 - (i) a claim which states, suggests or implies that the infant formula has, or may have, a health effect;
 - (ii) a claim which compares the infant formula to breast milk;
 - (iii) any of the following:
 - a representation of an infant or infants (whether or not accompanied by text);
 - a representation of a pregnant woman or nursing woman (whether or not accompanied by text);
 - a word like “humanised” or “maternalised”, or words of similar import;
 - a claim which idealises the use or effect of the infant formula
 - (iv) a claim which states, suggests, or implies the energy, carbohydrate and other nutritive property of any ingredient of the infant formula, other than those listed under Regulation 252(5) and (6) of the Food Regulations; and
 - (v) a claim which states, suggests, or implies that the infant formula is enriched or fortified, or is an excellent source of the ingredients listed under Regulation 252(5) and 252(6) of the Food Regulations.

- The label on any package for infant formula will be **required** to contain:
 - (i) statements, preceded by the words “Important Notice” or words of similar import, to ensure that consumers understand that
 - breastmilk is best for infants; and
 - infant formula should be used on the advice of a doctor or healthcare practitioner; and
 - (ii) a warning statement about the health hazards of improper use, preparation or storage of infant formula.
- The label on infant formula sold or to be sold as lactose free, low lactose or words of similar import will be **required** to contain:
 - (i) a total lactose content not greater than 10 mg per 100 kcal;
 - (ii) the words “lactose free” or “low lactose” or words of similar import;
 - (iii) a nutrition information panel on the label, specifying the exact amount of lactose in the infant formula; and
 - (iv) the words “Not suitable for infants with galactosaemia”.
- A label on any package of any infant formula, or an advertisement about any infant formula, may contain a claim which states, suggests or implies the presence of hydrolysed milk protein or whey protein in the infant formula.

4. The food industry has been consulted via a public consultation exercise from 10 November to 15 December 2017. A summary of the comments received and SFA’s response can be downloaded from:

www.sfa.gov.sg/legislation

(Select “Sale of Food Act”, then click on “Response to Comments Received from the Public Consultation on the Draft Food (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2019”)

5. The Food (Amendment) Regulations 2019 can be downloaded from the SFA website from 1 September 2019:

www.sfa.gov.sg/legislation

(Select “Sale of Food Act”, then click on “Food (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2019”)



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6. The food industry will be given a 12-month grace period until 1 September 2020 to comply with the new labelling requirements for infant formula. SFA will also develop a guidance document to assist the industry to better understand the new labelling and advertising requirements for infant formula. This guidance would include description on product scope as well as examples of claims which idealise the use of infant formula.

Yours faithfully
SEAH PEIK CHING (Ms)
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (REGULATORY POLICY)
FOOD REGULATORY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SINGAPORE FOOD AGENCY

This is a computer generated circular and no signature is required.