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CODEx

Discussion of Highlights of 43rd Session of the Codex Committee of Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU43)

1 March 2023

Meetings

- ❑ Meeting held in Germany the week of 6 March, 2023.
- ❑ Virtual participation is possible in listening mode.
- ❑ Meeting beginning Monday with 2 physical working groups: NRVs and Work Priorities.



Update to the Standard on Follow-Up Formula

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- ❑ One of the key items of Discussion: Update to the Standard on follow-up formula (CXS 156-1987).
- ❑ Work led by New Zealand since 2010 (start of the eWG).
- ❑ Covers product characteristics for formula destined to:
 - Part 1: 6-12 month infants and babies.
 - Part 2: 12-36 month babies – this latter category is not considered a breast milk substitute in several jurisdictions.
- ❑ Review of this standard took a significant amount of time and resources and accounted for a great deal of global data.
- ❑ It will be important that the standard move forward for adoption to recognize this work.



Areas of Discussion

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A. Structure of the Standard:

- 1 Standard with 2 parts or
- 2 separate standards?
- **Prevailing opinion is One Single Standard.**

B. Addition of a preamble to the Standard and the content of the preamble.

Significant discussion on the second item, with several delegations NOT in favor of including a preamble to the Standard or the possibility of having a very short and factual preamble.



Considerations for the preamble:

- ❑ Codex standards do not have to include a preamble at all.
- ❑ No guidance in Procedural Manual.
- ❑ General practice is to have a preamble that is simple and factual as per previous practice in CCFH, CCExec.



Proposed Preamble and Comments

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This Standard is divided into two sections. Section A refers to Follow-up Formula for Older Infants, and Section B deals with Drink for Young Children with Added Nutrients, or Product for Young Children with Added Nutrients, or Drink for Young Children, or Product for Young Children. **[The application of this Standard should be consistent with national health and nutrition policies and relevant national/regional legislation and take into account the recommendations made in the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, as per the national context]**. Relevant World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and policies and World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions were considered in the development of this Standard and may provide further guidance to countries.

- ☐ The 1st part is factual and would be sufficient.
- ☐ **The 2nd part [bracketed in bold]:**
 - **Mentions facts that are already codified in the Procedural Manual.**
 - **Reminder of formulation of Note 161 in the General Standard for Food Additives (with issues associated with this note).**
- ☐ The 3rd part (in blue) mentions what was considered in the development / update of the standard. The fact that other requirements apply is also a given and does not need to be added to a standard.

Do Not Delay!

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It will be important to have this issue NOT delay the adoption of the standard:

- ☐ The committee has done a lot of work and made significant progress.
- ☐ Agreement on the substance of the standard was reached.
- ☐ Existing standard is very much and requires the addition of safeguards as proposed by this update.
- ☐ It will be important to have the updated standard in place.



Preamble Necessary?

Should a preamble be indeed necessary, it could be as simple as:

This Standard is divided into two sections. Section A refers to Follow-up Formula for Older Infants, and Section B deals with Drink for Young Children with Added Nutrients, or Product for Young Children with Added Nutrients, or Drink for Young Children, or Product for Young Children.

☐ This is similar to a previous practice: **Preamble from Infant Formula Standard (CXS 72-1981)**

- Divided into 2 sections. Section A refers to Infant Formula and Section B deals with Formulas for Special Medical Purposes intended for Infants.

☐ Preamble simple and factual.

☐ Such addition would allow to move this standard for approval at CAC46.



