



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Forty-third Session

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Comments by Argentina

AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW OF THE STANDARD FOR FOLLOW-UP FORMULA (CXS 156-1987) STRUCTURE AND PREAMBLE COMMENTS TO CRD 2 PREPARED BY NEW ZEALAND

General comment:

Argentina thanks New Zealand for the work conducted and to be able to make comments on the Structure and Preamble of the Standard in order to reach a prompt agreement on these issues.

Specific comments:

PREAMBLE

Recommendation 1 - Structure of the Standard

CCNFSDU agree to one standard with two parts: part A covering follow-up formula for older infants and part B covering 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.

Argentina considers that a standard consisting of two parts should be adopted: part A covering follow-up formula for older infants and part B covering 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.

Justification: It is conceptually one product defined as a liquid part of the diversified diet of older infants and young children, with particular specifications regarding its composition and labelling. Therefore, it is considered that one Standard with two different parts is the most appropriate: part A for older infants, and part B for young children.

Recommendation 2 - Preamble of the Standard

This Standard is divided into two sections: section A covering follow-up formula for older infants and section B covering 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 or 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]. Argentina agrees to include a Preamble, mentioning only that this is one Standard with two parts, part A for older infants, and part B for young children, i.e. **the first paragraph** on Recommendation 2 of the Preamble.

On the other hand, **Argentina does not support the inclusion of the second and third paragraphs proposed in Recommendation 2 of the Preamble.** In this sense, it is considered that, while the application of standards should be consistent with national health and nutrition policies and national legislation, those paragraphs should not be mentioned in the Preamble. To this end, it was clarified that "the Preamble should not address matters

outside the scope of Codex and that discussion on the Preamble should be guided by the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius. Codex standards and related texts are not a substitute for, or alternative to national legislation. Every country's laws and administrative procedures contain provisions with which it is essential to comply."

Finally, Argentina does not agree to mention guidelines, resolutions, reports or any WHO/WHA document or sources external to Codex for regulatory practice purposes. The purpose of WHO, FAO or any international organization transcends the limited scope of a Codex standard. The content from texts outside the work of Codex should be agreed as part of the negotiation of the document, if there is consensus to do so. In this sense, the Committee always takes into account relevant texts from Organizations. If the text is not included, it may occur because the Committee took it into consideration, but was unable to agree; therefore, it should not be included through these generic references.