

# ***Syrian Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes Regulative resolution number /19/T Date 3/7/2000***

***Minister of health***

***According to presidential legislation number 111- year 1966  
And recommendation of national committee of encouraging of  
breast-feeding formed by resolution/1383-year 1994***

***And the working plan of breast-feeding encouraging program  
and conducting to international of marketing of breast-feeding  
substitutes which is put from who year 1981***

***And for general benefits***

***And the proposal of deputy minister***

## ***1-affirmative reasons***

-breast-feeding is an unequalled way of providing ideal food for the healthy growth and development of infants;

- that it forms a unique biological and emotional basis for the health of both mother and child;
- that the anti-infective properties of breast-milk help to protect infants against disease
- ; and that there is an important relationship between breast-feeding and child-spacing;

;- and that breast feeding is an important aspect of primary health care;

## **2General article**

### **Article -1 Aim of regulation resolution**

,-1-1 encouraging and facilitating breast-feeding, and providing objective and consistent advice to mothers and families about the superior value of breastfeeding, or, where needed, on the proper use of infant formula, whether manufactured industrially or home-prepared;

1-2 Providing the worker at nutrition sector of infants with suitable information and education and the protection and promotion of breastfeeding, and in the appropriate use of complementary foods;

## *Article 2. Scope of the Code*

Paragraph 1 -The Code applies to the marketing, and practices related thereto, of the following products

1-: breast-milk substitutes, including infant formula

2; other milk products, foods and beverages, including bottle fed complementary foods, when marketed or otherwise represented to be suitable, with or without modification, for use as a partial or total replacement of breast milk

3; feeding bottles and teats. It also applies to their quality and availability, and to information concerning their use.

Paragraph 2 –The minister of health has the right to add any new products after discussion with national special communities

## *Article 3. Definitions*

For the purposes of this Code:

"Breast-milk substitute" means any food being marketed or otherwise presented as a partial or total replacement for breast milk, whether or not suitable for that purpose.

"Complementary food" means any food whether manufactured or locally prepared, suitable as a complement to breast milk or to infant formula, when either become insufficient to satisfy the nutritional requirements of the infant. Such food is also commonly called "weaning food" or breast-milk supplement".

"Container" means any form of packaging of products for sale as a normal retail unit, including wrappers.

"Distributor" means a person, corporation or any other entity in the public or private sector engaged in the business (whether directly or indirectly) of marketing at the wholesale or retail level a product within the scope of this Code. A "primary distributor" is a manufacturer's sales agent, representative, national distributor or broker.

"Health care system" means governmental, nongovernmental or private institutions or organizations engaged, directly or indirectly, in health care for mothers, infants and pregnant women; and nurseries or child-care

institutions. It also includes health workers in private practice. For the purposes of this Code, the health care system does not include pharmacies or other established sales outlets.

"**Health worker**" means a person working in a component of such a health care system, whether professional or non-professional, including voluntary unpaid workers.

"**Infant formula**" means a breast-milk substitute formulated industrially in accordance with applicable Codex Alimentarius standards, to satisfy the normal nutritional requirements of infants up to six months of age, and adapted to their physiological characteristics. Infant formula may also be prepared at home, in which case it is described as "home-prepared".

"**Label**" means any tag, brand, marks, pictorial or other descriptive matter, written, printed, stencilled, marked, embossed or impressed on, or attached to, a container (see above) of any products within the scope of this Code.

"**Manufacturer**" means a corporation or other entity in the public or private sector engaged in the business or function (whether directly or through an agent or through an entity controlled by or under contract with it) of manufacturing a product within the scope of this Code.

"**Marketing**" means product promotion, distribution, selling, advertising, product public relations, and information services.

"**Marketing personnel**" means any persons whose functions involve the marketing of a product or products coming within the scope of this Code.

"**Samples**" means single or small quantities of a product provided without cost.

"**Supplies**" means quantities of a product provided for use over an extended period, free or at a low price, for social purposes, including those provided to families in need.

#### ***Article 4 Getting the substitutes***

Paragraph 1-NO getting the substitutes unless medical prescription for once time

Paragraph 2-the minister of health has the right to authorize the health worker to give prescription for those products

### *Article 5.health advertising and education*

. Paragraph 1 the ministry of health is responsible to accept the advertised and educational related to those products material

. Paragraph.2No publishing any material which in article 1 before acceptance of ministry of health and the Informational and educational materials, whether written, audio, or visual,

dealing with the feeding of infants and intended to reach pregnant women and mothers of infants and young children, should include clear information on all the following points:

(a) the benefits and superiority of breast-feeding;

(b) maternal nutrition, and the preparation for and maintenance of breast-feeding;

(c) the negative effect on breast-feeding of introducing partial bottle-feeding;

(d) the difficulty of reversing the decision not to breast-feed; and paragraph 3 where needed, the proper use of infant formula, whether manufactured industrially or home-prepared. When such

materials contain information about the use of infant formula, they should include the social and financial implications of its use; the health hazards of inappropriate foods or feeding methods; and, in particular, the health hazards of unnecessary or improper use of infant formula and other breast-milk substitutes

paragraph4. Such materials should not use any pictures or text which may idealize the use of breast-milk substitutes.

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### *Article 6- Advertising and promotion*

#### *Paragraph 1-*

6.1 There should be no advertising or other form of promotion to the general public of products within the scope of this Code.

6.2 Manufacturers and distributors should not provide, directly or indirectly, to pregnant women, mothers or members of their families, samples of products within the scope of this Code.

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6-3 Manufacturers and distributors should not distribute to pregnant women or mothers or infants and young children any gifts of articles or utensils which may promote the use of breast-milk substitutes or bottle-feeding.

6-4 Marketing personnel, in their business capacity, should not seek direct or indirect contact of any kind with pregnant women or with mothers of infants and young children.

### *Article 7-a Health care systems*

The ministry of health and medical collage should take appropriate measures to encourage and protect breast-feeding and promote the principles of this Code, and should give appropriate information and advice to health workers in regard to their responsibilities,

no facility of a health care system should be used for the purpose of promoting infant formula or other products within the scope of this Code.

7-2the mothers have a right of maternal and breast –feeding leave and there are nurseries in the mothers job place

7-3 Facilities of health care systems should not be used for the display of products within the scope of this Code, for placards or posters concerning such products, or for the distribution of material provided by a manufacturer or distributor

7-4the health workers such as doctors and pharmacist which work at the ministry of health are forbidden to work as distributors

### **Article 7 b Donations and supplies**

paragraph 1 Donations or low price sale are forbidden accept children departments in the hospitals

Donations or low price sale are permitted to asylum orphan

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### *Article 8. Health workers*

8.1 Health workers should encourage and protect breast-feeding; and those who are concerned in particular with maternal and infant nutrition should make themselves familiar with their responsibilities under this Code,

8-2prescription of substitutes of health workers are forbidden accept doctors

8-3 Information provided by manufacturers and distributors to health professionals regarding products within the scope of this Code should be restricted to scientific and factual matters, and such information should not imply or create a belief that bottle feeding

is equivalent or superior to breast-feeding. It should also include the information specified in Article 5.2.

8-3 No financial or material inducements to promote products within the scope of this Code should be offered by manufacturers or distributors to health workers or members of their families, nor should these be accepted by health workers or members of their families.

8-4 Samples of infant formula or other products within the scope of this Code, or of equipment or utensils for their preparation or use, should not be provided to health workers except when necessary for the purpose of professional evaluation or research at the institutional level

.8-5 Health workers should not give samples of infant formula to pregnant women, mothers of infants and young children, or members of their families.

..8-6health workers should be informed the ministry of health about any fellowships or attendance at conference that offered to any health workers

8-7 Feeding with infant formula, whether manufactured or home-prepared, should be demonstrated only by health workers, or other community workers if necessary; and only to the mothers or family members who need to use it; and the information given should include a clear explanation of the hazards of improper use.

## *Article 9. Labeling*

9.1 Manufacturers and distributors of infant formula should ensure that each container as a clear, conspicuous, and easily readable and understandable message printed on it, or on a label which cannot readily become separated from it, in an

Arabic language, which includes all the following points

: (a) the words "Important Notice" or their equivalent;

(b) a statement of the superiority of breastfeeding;

(c) a statement that the product should be used only on the advice of a health worker as to the need for its use and the proper method of use; (d) instructions for appropriate preparation, and a warning against the health hazards of inappropriate preparation. Neither the container nor the label should have pictures of infants, nor should they have other pictures or text which may idealize the use of infant formula. a product into infant formula

.e)quality and quantity composition and quantity of calories in each 100 ml of solution

: (f) the ingredients used; (g) the composition/analysis of the product; (h) the storage conditions required; and (i) the batch number and the date before which the product is to be consumed, taking into account the climatic and storage conditions of the country concerned.

## **Article 10 Quality**

Food products within this code should be within the prescriptive and standard in Syria

Article 11 monitoring

**Article 11 Monitoring** : A community is formed by resolution of the minister of health which is called monitoring community of breast-feed protection so for protecting this regulative regulation

Paragraph 2 The members of this community are :

1-Deputy minister

2-Primary health care director

3-Representative of inspecting sensor-ship committee

4- Representative of unicef

5 –Representative of high medical committee

6- Representative of medical union

7- Representative of pharmacist union

8- Representative of pediatric committee

9- Representative of o-g committee

10-The head of nutrition department

11- The head of breast-feed program

12- Representative of general women union

## **Article 11 Functions and procedure of Monitoring committee**

11-1 Any person has the right to inform Monitoring committee

11-2 The Monitoring committee has the right to visit any facilities of health care system in Syria

11-3 Monitoring committee has the right or any person authorized to investigate any irregular for this resolution

11-4 the committee meets once every 3 months , according to invitation of the head this committee

## **The punishments and the motivations**

### **Article 13 motivations**

The minister of health has the right to give a financial or moral motivation to any health worker does good for promotion a breast-feed

### **Article 14 punishments**

14-1 Any person makes an irregular matter of this resolution is punished according the law

14-2 If any corporations make an irregular matter of this resolution , the minister of health can stop or cancel the certificate of working in addition to the punishment of the paragraph 14-1