

Chapter Five

Infant Nutrition

Article (62):

In implementing the provisions of this section the following words and phrases have the meaning written in association with them:-

- (a) Foods or nutrients: All what is manufactured or sold or displayed for consumption directly like food or drink for human consumption with the exception of pharmaceutical products.
- (b) Infant: A child since its birth till it is 2 years of age.
- (c) Exclusive Breastfeeding: Suckling mother's breast milk as the only source of nutrition without any other supplement including water.
- (d) Infant Feeding products: Any food or nutrient product prepared or artificially manufactured that is marketed or presented as being suitable for feeding of infants up to 2 years of age whether considered complete or partial.
- (e) Special Nutritional needs of infants with hereditary inborn errors of metabolism: Milks, bread, and essential food materials that are free of nutrients unsuitable for children with hereditary inborn errors of metabolism such as phenylketonurea (PKU), Galactosemia and others.
- (f) Special use nutrients for infants with inborn errors of metabolism: Nutrients that differ from regular or ordinary nutrients in that it has a special composition or physical, chemical, biological or other modifications that resulted from manufacturing and it fulfills the nutritional needs specific of the infants and children whose metabolism has been altered by a genetic error of the metabolism of a nutrient.
- (g) Food additives: Any substance added to foods or preparations specially made for infant or child feeding that is not one of its original constituents with the intention of giving it desirable properties or prolonging its validity like flavorings, colorings, aromatics, preservatives, antioxidants and others.
- (h) A preservative: Any substance that prevents the growth of micro-organisms or the decay or the fermentation with the purpose of prolonging the food validity or keeping it free from microbial contamination.
- (i) Trading or handling food preparations: Any one or more process of manufacturing, preparing, putting up for sale, storing, transporting or delivering foods.
- (j) Advertisement: A method of informing and publicizing or increasing confidence to promote selling or disposal of products specified for infant or child nutrition whether intending to produce this effect or not.

(k) Promotion: Applying any direct or indirect procedures to urge someone to buy or use a product specific for infant or child feeding including presenting samples or free or reduced price gifts or samples to hospitals or physicians or others.

Article (63):

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with other concerned ministries, authorities, and agencies, is responsible for disseminating the information and awareness of the importance of breastfeeding until the child is 2 years old, among concerned people, and not to organize marketing of any products that counteract breastfeeding and insuring the appropriate use of complementary or supplementary foods when they are medically indicated (including milks and heir derivatives) and this is all to create a public opinion or attitude supportive of breastfeeding within the family and community.

Such information include:

- 1) Benefits of breastfeeding specially in the first six months and hazards of artificial milks, herbals and other drinks and feeding bottles and pacifiers.
- 2) Encouraging and supporting working mothers to breastfeed and demonstration of the different ways to keep breastfeeding after return to work.
- 3) Proper maternal nutrition and preparations for breastfeeding during pregnancy.
- 4) The importance of early initiation of breastfeeding (immediately after birth) and preventing giving the newborn any drinks.
- 5) The necessity of continuing breastfeeding until the age of 2 years with the introduction of suitable complementary foods after the end of the sixth month of age.
- 6) The possibility of regaining back breastfeeding after its cessation with the assistance of the medical team.
- 7) The acceptable medical indications that are supported by scientific evidence for the use of artificial or natural supplements whether partially or totally which are issued by the ministry of health according to local needs, guided by the regular bulletins issued by the World Health Organization, and its dissemination among workers in the health sector who deal with pregnant women, mothers and their families.

Article (64):

It is prohibited for manufacturers, distributors, or any other person or any one on their behalf to promote any product related to infant feeding through the following:

- 1) Giving one or more free samples of their product even if it is considered a complementary food to any person whether real person or a legal entity including hospitals, clinics and their staff unless with a prior permission from the ministry of health.

- 2) Donating or distributing any informational or educational material whether directly or indirectly concerning infant and child feeding or doing educational work or jobs concerning infant or child feeding unless this information is restricted to scientific factual and real information on the individual constituents or ingredients and the methods of use of the classified products and with a prior permission from the ministry of health.
- 3) Directly or indirectly communicating with pregnant or breastfeeding women for promoting or publicizing their product.
- 4) Establishing a hotline or sponsoring any program in any of the media whether read, heard, seen, or electronic for counseling on infant or child feeding, that is targeting mothers, pregnant or breastfeeding women and their families.
- 5) Absolutely no use of pictures or text that may undermine breastfeeding or make it seem difficult, or use of words or phrases or photos that show the product as ideal, similar, or close to mother's milk in some or all of its components.
- 6) No provision of gifts or donations or selling with a reduced price, of infant foods or the utensils used for artificial feeding like feeding bottles and pacifiers unless with a prior permission from the Ministry of Health.
- 7) If a company producing or distributing infant and child foods donates its products to orphanages it must ensure the sustainability of supplying the product for as long as it is needed or for at least one year.
- 8) A producer must not sell or put up for sale, full cream, low fat, condensed or sweetened milks whether in the form of powder or liquid unless the label fixed on its package has the phrase (This product is not for use to feed infants less than one year).
- 9) Advertising or publicizing in any of the media whether read, heard, seen, or electronic, of infant milks or foods or the utensils used for artificial infant feeding like feeding bottles or pacifiers.
- 10) It is forbidden to display or sell infant foods unless the label fixed on its package indicates in clear, obvious wording that is easy to read and in the Arabic language the coming matters:
 - a) The phrase "Important Note" in big letters in font size (14) pointing to the following sentence written below it: (Mother's milk is the best nutrition for infants up to 2 years of age, it promotes immunity and protects from intestinal and respiratory infections and many other diseases).
 - b) This phrase must be written in visible letters seen darker, bolder and bigger than other letters written on the label.
 - c) Statement that the product must not be used unless prescribed by the physician as to the indication for its use and the proper way of its use.

d) Instructions on the proper method of preparation.

Article (65):

The ministry of Higher Education is responsible for the inclusion of material for raising awareness of the importance of breastfeeding and ways of its protection and promotion, in the curricula of institutions and colleges whose graduates have related professions like schools and Faculties of nursing, Faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science, Home Economics and Agriculture.

Article (66):

It is a commitment on the health facilities concerned with maternal and infant care, whether governmental or private, to implement the mechanisms of a Baby Friendly Hospital by being committed to the application of the 10 steps to successful breastfeeding and abidance by the International Code of Marketing of Breast milk Substitutes according to the initiatives of the World Health Organization and also the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding issued by the same organization and also the national strategies of food and feeding issued by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization and Organizations of the United Nations and the concerned ministries in Egypt.

Article (67):

It is not permissible to add any food additives to foods or preparations made for infant and child nutrition unless it is included in the lists of permissible products and unless it is fulfilling the conditions and properties which are indicated in a decree issued by the Minister of Health after consulting the National Nutrition Institute.

Article (68):

The packages of foods and preparations made for infant and child nutrition which contain any food additives must have a label that contains the names and amounts of these additives and that they are within the indicated permissible limits and these statements must also include a clarification whether these additives can cause any harm or disability for children with hereditary inborn errors of metabolism.

Article (69):

Foods and preparations made for infant and child nutrition are considered unsuitable for consumption if is added to them any food additives which are not included in the lists of permissible products or is not fulfilling the conditions and properties which are indicated in a decree issued by the Minister of Health or if such additives exceed the permissible limits.

Article (70):

Foods and preparations made for infant and child nutrition, their packages, utensils used for their preparation or manufacture or handling must be free from any substances harmful to health and from germs and microbes causing disease and in accordance with the provisions of laws and decrees concerning the containers used for food substances. The special needs of children with hereditary inborn errors of metabolism must be considered and fulfilled and also the micronutrients like minerals and vitamins as iodine, iron, and others.

A ministerial decree must be issued by the minister of health indicating the substances harmful to the health of infants and children and the germs and microbes causing disease mentioned in the previous paragraph.

The government is committed to make available, the food products necessary for children with hereditary inborn errors of metabolism.

Article (71):

It is not permissible to manufacture or produce or pack or import any foods or preparations made for infant and child nutrition that contains any food additives or to manufacture, produce, pack, or import any of these additives with the purpose of adding it to foods or preparations made for infant and child nutrition unless it is in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw.

Article (72):

It is not permissible to trade or handle foods or preparations made for infant and child nutrition whether locally manufactured or imported from abroad except after it has been registered and licensed for trade by the minister of Health and in accordance with the conditions and procedures specified in a decree issued by the minister of health.

Article (73):

It is forbidden to advertize foods or preparations made for infant and child nutrition in any way of advertisement whether read, heard or seen, except after it has been registered and licensed for trade and also licensed for advertizing and how it is done. The conditions, the methods and the procedures necessary for licensing of the advertisement, must be specified in a ministerial decree issued by the minister of Health in agreement with the minister of supplies and in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw.

Article (74):

In case of violation of any provision of this chapter the necessary report is issued by the authorities and the food preparations, substances, containers and advertisement material, which are the subject of the crime, are got hold of, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the provisions of Article (30) of the law are applied.