

## **COSTA RICA – Technical Regulation RTCR 426-2009 – Infant Formula (approved on 10 May 2010)**

*Below are only those parts that in some regard touch upon the marketing of products.*

### **11.6 Additional labelling requirements**

11.6.1 Labels shall not discourage breastfeeding. The label of each container shall bear a clearly visible message, easy to read, with the following elements:

- a) The words “Important Notice”
- b) The statement “Breastmilk is the best food for the infant”
- c) A statement that the product must be used only on the advice of a health worker on the need for its use and the method of appropriate preparation.

11.6.2 Labels shall not have images of babies or women nor other images or text that idealise the use of formulas.

11.6.3 Words such as “humanised”, “maternalized” or similar shall not be used.

11.6.4 Labels shall state that infants need to receive complementary foods, at least from the age of six months on, in addition to a formula, following advice from a health worker.

11.6.5 Products shall be labelled in such a manner as to avoid all possible confusion between formula, follow-up formula and special formulas for medicinal use.

**11.7 Permissible labelling:** Health claims on labels of infant formula shall be permitted, in accordance with the following rules:

11.7.1 Claims must be presented in a general context, to show that it is a characteristic that can also be attributed to other products or ingredients of the same kind, and not exclusively that of the product that includes a claim on its label.

11.7.2 Statements about nutritional properties can be: In relation to the nutrition content, indicating the amount of a certain nutritious substance contained in the formula, or a comparison of amounts of nutritious substances and the energy content of two or more formulas.

11.7.3 Health claims must be substantiated by rigorous studies following appropriate scientific standards and may not be misleading nor give the idea that a product is superior because it contains certain substances. They can be of two kinds:

- a) Describing the function of nutrients: They describe the physiological function of a nutrient during growth, development and normal body functions.
- b) Other claims about properties in relation to a function: These must indicate the specific

beneficial effects of consuming the product or its components as part of an appropriate diet on normal biological functions or body activities. They must be associated with a positive contribution to health or improved function or the modification or preservation of health.

13.1 This Technical Regulation basically repeats standard ***Codex Stan 72-1981 Standard for Infant Formula and Formula for Special Medicinal Uses intended for infants, Revision 2007.***

Article 4 – This regulation shall apply six months after its publication.

Signed at the Presidency of the Republic, San José, on the tenth day of the month of May of two thousand and ten.

*Translation by J-P Allain for ICDC/IBFAN  
15 June 2016*