

Technical Issues on Nutrition Labelling

- Rounding Rules -



Rounding Rules

- Involve in the work of transforming the results of nutrient analysis (i.e., direct analysis) or data from food composition database (i.e., indirect analysis) to labelling values
- Rounding rules may affect the compliance limits
 $\text{Compliance limit} = \text{Label value}^* + \text{Tolerance}$
- Currently, no international recognized rounding rules for NL (i.e., rounding rules are not specified in the Codex Guidelines)



* The label value should be the max/min pre-round value.

Rounding Rules

- Round to 'zero' (Annex I – Table 1)
- Other rounding rules: Three common approaches : -
 - Rounding by specifying the increment levels (Annex I – Table 2a)
 - Rounding by means of significant figures (Annex I – Table 2b)
 - Rounding by means of decimal place (Annex I – Table 2b)



Rounding Rules

Example 1 (assumed there is a $\pm 20\%$ tolerance limit): -

	Label value	Min pre-round	Max pre-round	20% tol.	Compliance limit (pre-round $\pm 20\%$ tol.)
0.5-g increments	1.5	1.25	1.75	0.30	0.95; 2.05
2 Significant figures	1.5	1.40*	1.54	0.3	1.10; 1.94
1 Decimal Place	1.5	1.45	1.54	0.30	1.15; 1.94

*According to "AO 1700-1201: Numerical values - Rounding and interpretation of limiting values", the value 1.40 would round to 1.4.



Rounding Rules

Example 2 (assumed there is a $\pm 20\%$ tolerance limit): -

	Label value	Min pre-round	Max pre-round	20% tol.	Compliance limit (pre-round $\pm 20\%$ tol.)
1-g increments	10	9.5	10.4	2.0	7.5; 12.4
2 Significant figures	10	9.95	10.4	2.0	7.95; 12.4
1 Decimal Place	10.0	9.95	10.04	2.0	7.94; 12.04



Proposed Rounding Rules for the NL Scheme in Hong Kong

- Taking the trade's comments into consideration, it is proposed that the rounding rules proposed in the Mainland[#] be adopted for the NL scheme in HK : -
 - Energy/Nutrient value expressed in gram/ml with a value ≥ 10 : round to the nearest full integer
 - Nutrient value expressed in gram/ml with a value < 10 or in mg or μg : round to 1 decimal place



[#] The Mainland proposed a NL scheme in Oct 2004.

- ENDS -

