

## Technical Issues on Nutrition Labelling

### - Tolerance Limits -



## Tolerance Limits

- Levels of tolerance limits greatly affect the compliance limits.  
**Compliance limit = Label value\* + Tolerance**
- Currently, no international accepted tolerance limits for NL (i.e., tolerance limits are not specified in the Codex Guidelines).

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



## Tolerance Limits

Two general approaches when setting tolerance limits : -

- Specified range approach
- Maximum/Minimum value approach



## Specified Range Approach

### Macronutrients

- $\pm 20\%$  (widely acceptable)

### Micronutrients

- The tolerance limits vary according to the nature of the nutrient
  - Minerals / Fat soluble vitamins  
– narrower range
  - Water soluble vitamins  
– wider range



## Maximum / Minimum Value Approach

### “Negative” Nutrients

- For example, total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, etc.
- Generally,  $\leq 120\%$  of the label value

### “Positive” Nutrients

- For example, protein, dietary fibre, vitamins, etc.
- Generally,  $\geq 80\%$  of the label value



## Maximum / Minimum Value Approach

### Added Nutrients

- i.e., Nutrient fortification
- The amount of nutrients added can be controlled by the manufacturer
- Generally,  $\geq 100\%$  of the label value



## Proposed Tolerance Limits for the NL Scheme in Hong Kong

- Taking the trade's comments into consideration, it is proposed that the tolerance limits proposed in the Mainland\* be adopted for the NL scheme in Hong Kong.

\* The Mainland proposed a NL scheme in Oct 2004.



	The Mainland (proposed)
Energy	± 20%
Protein	± 20%
Carbohydrate	± 20%
Total Fat	± 20%
Saturated Fat	± 20%
Sodium	± 120%
Cholesterol	± 20%
Sugars	± 20%
Dietary Fibre	± 20%
Vitamins	Vitamins A, D: -20% to +80% Other vitamins: -20% to +150% (or no upper limit)
Minerals	-25% to +15% (or no upper limit)



**- ENDS -**

