

## **Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**

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### **Minutes of a Technical Meeting with Trade on the Labelling Scheme on Nutrition Information (Manufacturers' Subgroup) held on 1 September 2005 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 4331, 43rd Floor, Queensway Government Offices**

#### **PRESENT:**

##### **Government Representatives**

Dr HO Yuk-yin	Consultant (Community Medicine), FEHD	(Chairman)
Ms Vivian KO	Principal Assistant Secretary, HWFB	
Ms Sally KAN	Assistant Secretary, HWFB	
Mr Stanley NG	Senior Administrative Officer (Food and Public Health), FEHD	
Dr Priscilla KWOK	Senior Medical Officer (Risk Assessment), FEHD	
Dr Stephen CHUNG	Senior Chemist (Food Research laboratory), FEHD	
Mr YIP Ming-bor	Superintendent (Risk Assessment), FEHD	
Mr LI Ka-kei	Chief Health Inspector (Food Labelling), FEHD	
Ms Jacqueline FUNG	Scientific Officer (Risk Assessment), FEHD	(Note-taker)

##### **Trade Representatives**

Ms Miran NG	Assistant Manager, The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of HK	
Dr Michael TSANG	Managing Director, Ahead Global Ltd.	
Ms Ken CHEUNG	Managing Director, Cents Company Ltd.	
Ms May KAN	Division Scientific Regulatory Affairs Director, Coca-Cola China Ltd.	
Mr Jeffery CHIANG	Assistant Marketing Officer, Four Seas Global Food Co. Ltd.	
Mr Stephen LAU	Marketing Director, Friesland Foods HK Ltd.	
Ms Carol LING	Assistant Quality Control Manager, Golden Resources Develop Intl Ltd.	
Ms Phyllis WONG	Assistant Administrative Officer, Home of Swallows Ltd.	

Mr YONG Sin-tung	Manager / Director, H.K. Rice Merchants Enterprises Ltd.
Mr LI Iie-qiao	Managing Director, H.K. Rice Merchants Enterprises Ltd.
Mr LIN Wei-guang	Marketing Consultant/Vice Manager, H.K. Rice Merchants Enterprises Ltd.
Mr NING Wei	Managing Director, H.K. Rice Merchants Enterprises Ltd.
Ms Tammy LAM	General Manager – Head of Operations, Hop Hing Holdings Ltd.
Mr CHAN Chi-ming	Quality Control Supervisor, Hop Hing Holdings Ltd.
Ms Carmen MAN	Product Development Officer, Kampery Development Ltd.
Mr O Man-sui	Manager, Kaiwai Food Company Ltd.
Mr SIU Yeung-ye	Vice Factory Head, Kowloon Flour Mills Enterprises Ltd.
Mr Timothy TAM	Laboratory Manager, Lee Kum Kee International Holdings Ltd.
Ms LAW Suk-kwan	Assistant Technical Officer, Lee Kum Kee International Holdings Ltd.
Mr Samuel CHAN	Laboratory Manager, The Garden Company Ltd.
Ms Sue LAU	HKPD Manager, Vitasoy International Holdings Ltd.
Ms Estella HUI	Overseas Product Development Manager, Vitasoy Intl Holdings Ltd.
Mr Alvin LANG	Supervisor, Wah Fung Enterprise (HK) Limited
Mr David TSOI	Hong Kong Weiyuen Foodstuff & Drinks Co., Ltd.
Ms Coral LI	R&D Technologist, Winner Food Products Ltd.
Ms Agatha YIU	R&D Technologist, Winner Food Products Ltd.

### **Welcoming Remarks**

### **Action**

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the trade representatives.

### **Agenda Item 1**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2005 were confirmed without amendments.

**Agenda Item 2**  
**Matters Arising**

3. With regard to the suggestion made by a trade representative on a software for rounding nutrient values at the last meeting, Dr KWOK informed the trade representatives that the Administration planned to establish a web-based nutrition label calculator to assist the trade in formulating nutrition labels. The programme would have an interface for the trade to input the details of ingredients. Also, it would round off the labelling values and produce sample nutrition labels in standard formats. The sample nutrition labels would come in five different formats (per 100 g, per 100 ml, per single portion package, per 100 g + per single portion package, and per 100 ml + per single portion package) with three different language versions (English, Traditional Chinese and Bilingual).

**Agenda Item 3 Technical Issues on Nutrition Labelling**

**(i) Trans Fat**

4. Ms FUNG briefed the trade representatives on the background information and actions taken on trans fat (Annex I). After the presentation, the Chairman reiterated that the Administration planned to require trans fat labelling when the product carried a fat and/or cholesterol claim in Phase II. However, the Administration had no plan to limit the content of trans fat in food products.

5. A trade representative urged the Government to educate the public on adverse health effects of trans fat. The Chairman replied that the current focus of nutrition education was on the core nutrients. The Government will strengthen the content of nutrition labelling education progressively, and therefore, education materials on trans fat would be incorporated at a later stage.

**(ii) Nutrition Labelling Format**

6. Ms FUNG outlined the various options of nutrition labelling formats (Annex 2). The Chairman said having heard the trade's comments on relaxing the small package criteria for exemption at last meeting, the Administration proposed to accept linear format for small package with total surface area less than 200 cm<sup>2</sup>.

7. Questions were raised on the use of language on nutrition label and whether per 100 ml nutrient content expression was allowed. Mr LI informed the meeting

that the Administration would apply the same principle as for the ingredient list, i.e., if both English and Chinese were used in the labelling or marking of prepackaged food, the nutrition label should appear in both languages. As for the nutrient content expression, the Chairman clarified that instead of per 100 g, the trade could use the per 100 ml expression. However, per serving expression would be considered as additional information and could not be used to substitute the per 100 g, per 100 ml, or per single portion package information.

8. A trade representative enquired whether there would be any requirement on the font size on nutrition labels. Although no font size requirement was proposed, Mr LI answered that according to the existing regulations, prepackaged food should be “legibly marked and labelled” with the required information.

### **(iii) Nutrient Content Claims**

9. Ms FUNG introduced the proposed conditions for nutrient content claims (Annex 3). Subsequent to the presentation, the Chairman supplemented that there were two options to regulate nutrient content claims outside the proposed list – Option I: Positive List approach (Forbidden approach); and Option II: Negative List approach (Status Quo approach), i.e., nutrient content claims outside the proposed list would be subject to general control under Cap 132 Section 61.

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10. A trade representative enquired about the definition of sugars. Mr LI replied that the current definition of sugars could be found in the existing Sweeteners in Food Regulations. No other specific concern was raised by the trade over the proposed conditions on nutrient content claims.

### **(iv) Nutrient Comparative Claims**

11. Ms FUNG briefed the meeting on the proposed principles for making nutrient comparative claims (Annex 4). A trade representative was concerned how they could name the compared/reference food on the label. The Chairman said that the trade could generalize the compared/reference food on the label. However, they should be able to provide solid information when queried by the enforcement staff.

### **(v) Nutrition Claim Synonyms**

12. Ms FUNG illustrated the possible use of various nutrition claim synonyms (Annex 5). The Chairman stressed that the list of nutrition claim synonyms would

be included in the NL Guide. To avoid possible disputes in the future, he urged the trade to apply the proposed synonyms when making claims. Also, he encouraged the trade to submit other synonyms and signs/symbols for the Administration's consideration.

**(vi) Nutrient Function Claims**

13. Ms FUNG gave a presentation on nutrient function claims (Annex 6). The Chairman emphasized that nutrient function claims should be based on long-established and non-controversial science and best to have scientific consensus reached at the international level, such as acknowledged by the WHO etc. A trade representative enquired whether advertising would be subject to control under the proposed scheme. The Chairman pointed out that the level of control on advertising would be the same as any nutrition information appearing on the food label.

14. Regarding other claims not related to nutrients and/or not on normal physiological functions, the Chairman told the meeting that if these claims were not disease or health condition related, they would continue to be subject to the general control under Cap 132 Section 61.

**Agenda Item 4**

**Any Other Business**

15. The Chairman indicated that the Administration planned to submit the Draft Drafting Instruction (DDI) to LegCo early next year. He anticipated that next technical meeting would be held around January 2006 before the DDI submission. By then, technical issues, such as tolerance limits, rounding rules, conditions for making claims, exemptions etc., should be finalized and these requirements/principles (but not the applications) would be incorporated into the nutrition labelling guide for sight.

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16. The Chairman also informed the meeting that the Administration intended to establish a single set of nutrient reference values (NRVs) with the Mainland authority. If the process ran smoothly, the values would be made available at the end of 2005/early 2006.

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17. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.