

TECHNICAL ISSUES ON NUTRITION LABELLING

– SYNONYMS FOR NUTRITION CLAIMS –

SYNONYMS

Other than the prescribed “claims” provided by the Codex or food/health authorities, wordings and descriptions with similar meanings are often used by the trade in making nutrition claims, i.e., nutrient content claims and nutrient comparative claims. Furthermore, Chinese translations or words used for selected nutrition claims may sometimes cause confusions or misinterpretation by the general public. In order to assist the trade in making nutrition claims, a list of synonyms for nutrition claims is proposed (Annex 1 – Nutrient content claims; Annex 2 – Nutrient comparative claims).

SIGNS/SYMBOLS AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

2. Apart from words or descriptions, signs and symbols are sometimes interpreted as nutrition claims, e.g., “↓ Energy”, “↑ Calcium”, “+ Iron”, “✕ Fat”, etc. In principle, if a sign/symbol implies that the food has particular nutrition properties, the prepackaged food should comply with the conditions set for nutrition claims. Currently, the same sign or symbol applied by different companies may have different meanings, e.g., “↑ Calcium” can be interpreted as “High calcium,” “Increased in calcium” or “Extra calcium”. To minimize confusion and for standardization purpose, the Administration proposed matching some of the commonly used signs/symbols with selected nutrition claims (Annex 1-2).

3. Synonyms for nutrition claims and signs/symbols interpretation will be listed in the guide to nutrition labelling for the trade’s reference.

VIEWS SOUGHT

4. Representatives from the trade are invited to comment on the proposed synonyms for the nutrition claims for the Labelling Scheme on Nutrition Information in Hong Kong.

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

August 2005

Proposed Synonyms and Signs/Symbols for Nutrient Content Claims

Claim	Synonyms		Signs / Symbols
	English	Chinese	
Low (低)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little • Low source • Few • Contains a small amount of • Contains less than X g of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 少 • 提供很少 • 含量低 • 含量少於 X g • 略含 • 薄 	
Very low (很低)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 非常低 • 極低 	
Free (不含)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • No • Contains no • Without 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 無 • 零 • 沒有 	• ✘
Source (來源)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains • Provides • Has • With 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 含 • 有 • 含有 	• ✓
High (高)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High source • Good source of • Excellent source of • Rich in • Plenty of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 豐富 • 富含 • 多 • 提供很多 • 含量多 	
No added (不加)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Un- (e.g., unsweetened, unsalted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 沒有加添 • 沒有添加 	

Proposed Synonyms and Signs/Symbols for Nutrient Comparative Claims

Claim	Synonyms		Signs / Symbols
	English	Chinese	
Less (較低)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light / Lite • Lower • Lower source • Fewer • Contains less 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 更低 • 較/更少 • 提供較/更少 • 含量較/更低 • 減低 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↓ • -
Higher (較高)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra • More • Additional • Added • Plus • Enriched • Fortified • Strengthened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 更高 • 較/更多 • 增加 • 添加 • 增添 • 加強 • 強化 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↑ • +