

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Number: CE2023-0015

Report Name: Sri Lanka Enacts New Legislation for the Fortification of Refined Wheat Flour

Country: Sri Lanka

Post: Colombo

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka's (Sri Lanka) Ministry of Health recently introduced the Food (Refined Wheat Flour Fortification) Regulations (2022). The new regulations regulate the folic acid and iron fortification requirements of refined wheat flour for retail sale for domestic consumption and bread manufacturing effective January 1, 2024. The Sri Lankan government notified the new regulations (dated December 13, 2022) in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – Extraordinary (official gazette) as published on January 02, 2023. Sri Lanka's wheat millers have the capacity to fortify wheat flour as per the new regulations, as the millers are already producing fortified wheat flour products with different minerals and vitamins. However, the iron and folic acid fortification may increase the cost of production of wheat flour and may affect the flavor and consistency of bread and other products made with fortified wheat flour.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka’s (Sri Lanka) Ministry of Health recently introduced the [Food \(Refined Wheat Flour Fortification\) Regulations \(2022\)](#) (see, Appendix I). The new regulations regulate the folic acid and iron fortification requirements of refined wheat flour for retail sale for domestic consumption and bread manufacturing effective January 1, 2024. The Sri Lankan government notified the new regulations (dated December 13, 2022) in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – Extraordinary (official gazette) as published on January 02, 2023.

These regulations apply to wheat flour obtained by grinding and bolting cleaned cereal *Triticum aestivum L.* or *Triticum compactum* host and apply to whole wheat flour, and as well as to refined wheat flour extracted from whole wheat.

Background:

As per the [Food \(Refined Wheat Flour Fortification\) Regulations \(2022\)](#), a manufacturer of refined wheat flour for retail sale for domestic consumption or manufacturing of bread shall fortify such refined wheat flour with folic acid and iron and ensure that such fortified refined wheat flour contains:

- (a) Folic acid between the range of 2 to 3 mg/kg
- (b) Iron as sodium iron ethylenediaminetetraacetate (NaFeEDTA) or ferrous fumarate or ferrous sulphate as specified in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Fortified Iron Levels

IRON TYPE	LEVEL
Sodium iron ethylenediaminetetraacetate (NaFeEDTA)	35 - 40 mg/kg
Ferrous fumarate	55 - 60 mg/kg
Ferrous sulphate	55 - 60 mg/kg

Source: Food (Refined Wheat Flour Fortification) Regulations (2022).

- A person manufacturing refined wheat flour for retail sale for domestic consumption or manufacturing bread shall ensure that such wheat flour has an extraction rate of at least 80 percent.

- A person engaging in any business operation manufacturing refined wheat flour to supply to any other business other than bread manufacturing shall ensure that such refined wheat flour has an extraction rate of at least 74 percent.

Sri Lanka's wheat millers have the capacity to fortify wheat flour as per the new regulations, as the millers are already producing fortified wheat flour products with different minerals and vitamins. However, the iron and folic acid fortification may increase the cost of production of wheat flour and may affect the flavor and consistency of bread and other products made with fortified wheat flour.

APPENDIX I. Sri Lanka, Food (Refined Wheat Flour Fortification) Regulations (2022)



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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2313/07 - 2023 ජනවාරි මස 02 වැනි සඳුදා - 2023.01.02
No. 2313/07 - MONDAY, JANUARY 02, 2023

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

L.D.B - 11/1980(36).

THE FOOD ACT, No. 26 OF 1980

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Health in consultation with the Food Advisory Committee under Section 32 of the Food Act, No. 26 of 1980.

KEHELIYA RAMBUKWELLA,
Minister of Health.

13th of December, 2022,
Colombo.

Regulations

1. These regulations may be cited as the Food (Refined Wheat Flour Fortification) Regulations 2022 and shall come into operation on January 01, 2024.

2. For the purpose of these regulations, wheat flour shall be the cleaned sound product obtained by grinding and bolting cleaned cereal *Triticum aestivum* L. or *Triticum compactum* Host and includes whole wheat flour and refined wheat flour and refined wheat flour shall be the wheat flour extracted from whole wheat.



1A-PG 6141 - 3006 (01/2023)

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PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 02.01.2023

3. A person manufacturing refined wheat flour for retail sale for domestic consumption or for manufacturing of bread shall fortify such refined wheat flour with Folic acid and Iron and shall ensure that such fortified refined wheat flour contains ;

- (a) Folic acid between the range of 2 to 3 mg/kg
- (b) Iron as Sodium iron ethylenediaminetetraacetate (NaFeEDTA) or Ferrous fumarate or Ferrous sulphate as specified in the Schedule hereto.

4. A person manufacturing refined wheat flour for retail sale for domestic consumption or for manufacturing bread shall ensure that such refined wheat flour has an extraction rate not less than eighty per centum (80%).

5. A person engaging in any business operation manufacturing refined wheat flour for the purpose of supplying to any other business other than bread manufacturing shall ensure that such refined wheat flour has an extraction rate not less than seventy four per centum (74%).

SCHEDULE

<i>Iron Type</i>	<i>Level</i>
Sodium iron ethylenediaminetetraacetate (NaFeEDTA)	35 - 40 mg/kg
Ferrous fumarate	55 - 60 mg/kg
Ferrous sulphate	55 - 60 mg/kg

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Attachments:

No Attachments.