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Report Name: National Food Safety Standard of Cereal-based Complementary Foods for Infants and Young Children Finalized

Country: China - People's Republic of

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Report Highlights:

On March 27, 2025, the People's Republic of China's (China's) National Health Commission (NHC) and State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) jointly released the National Food Safety Standard of Cereal-based Complementary Foods for Infants and Young Children (GB 10769-2025). The finalized standard will enter into force on March 16, 2026. The draft standard was notified to the WTO on March 6, 2023. This report provides an unofficial translation of the final standard. Stakeholders should conduct their own review of the regulation.

Report Summary:

On March 27, 2025, the People's Republic of China's (China's) National Health Commission (NHC) and State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) jointly released the National Food Safety Standard of Cereal-based Complementary Foods for Infants and Young Children (GB 10769-2025), which will replace the current standard of GB10769-2010 implemented since April 2011.

The standard provides requirements of ingredients, nutritional components, microbial and contaminants limits, labeling and packaging for cereal-based complementary foods for infants and young children, including ready-to-eat and raw products. The final standard will enter into force on March 16, 2026.

China notified the WTO of the draft standard on March 6, 2023 under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1269](#), please see [FAS GAIN Report CH2023-0067](#) for detailed information. This report contains an unofficial translation of the National Food Safety Standard of Cereal-based Complementary Foods for Infants and Young Children (GB 10769-2025). Stakeholders should conduct their own review of the regulation.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

National Food Safety Standard Cereal-based Complementary Foods for Infants and Young Children

Foreword

This standard replaces GB 10769-2010 National Food Safety Standard Cereal-based Complementary Foods for Infants and Young Children. Compared with GB10769-2010, the main changes in this standard are as follows:

- The scope, terminology, definition, and description of product classifications are revised,
- Maximum values of some nutrients are added,
- Vitamin C is changed from optional nutritional ingredients to basic nutritional ingredients, magnesium is added as optional nutritional ingredient, and iodine is deleted as optional nutritional ingredient,
- Honey is not allowed to be used and the provisions on the amount of sugar are revised,
- General standards are referenced for maximum limits of contaminants, mycotoxins, and pathogenic bacteria,
- The standard number of testing methods is updated,
- The description of packaging media is added.

1 Scope

This standard is applicable to cereal-based supplementary foods for older infants and young children aged 6 to 36 months.

2 Terms and Definitions

2.1 Older infants

Refers to infants aged 6 to 12 months.

2.2 Young children

Refers to children aged 12 to 36 months.

2.3 Cereal-based complementary foods for infants and young children

Complementary foods suitable for older infants and young children aged 6-36 months, which are processed with one or more kinds of cereals (such as rice, wheat, millet, barley, oat, rye, corn, etc.) as the main ingredients, and the dry substances of cereals account for 50% or more of the total dry composition, with a proper addition amount of nutrition fortification substances and/or other food ingredients.

3 Product Classification

3.1 Cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children

It can be consumed after being brewed with milk or other protein containing liquid or ready-to-eat cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children.

3.2 High-protein cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children

It adds high protein ingredients and can be consumed after being brewed with water or other liquid without protein, or ready-to-eat cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children.

3.3 Raw cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children

Cereal-based supplementary food for infants and young children that can be consumed only after cooking.

3.4 Other cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children

Cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children, such as biscuits, teething biscuits and others, which can be consumed directly or after being crushed and brewed with water (or milk or other proper liquid).

4 Technical Requirements

4.1 Ingredients Requirements

Ingredients used in products shall comply with corresponding safety standards and/or relevant provisions. The ingredients shall ensure the safety, nutritious needs of the infants and young children. Substances which will cause harm to nutrition and health for infants shall not be used.

Hydrogenated oil and fat shall not be used.

Ingredients treated with radiation shall not be used.

Honey shall not be used.

4.2 Sensory Requirements

Sensory indicators should comply with provisions in Table 1.

Table 1: Sensory Requirements

Item	Requirements
Color	Must be consistent with characteristics of corresponding products.
Taste and smell	Must be consistent with characteristics of corresponding products.
Texture	Must be consistent with characteristics of corresponding products, and there should be no visible foreign objects.
Brewing	Must be consistent with characteristics of corresponding products.

4.3 Basic Nutritional Components Indicators

The basic nutritional components indicators in the product should meet the requirements in Table 2.

Table 2: Basic Nutritional Components Indicators

Item	Cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children ^a	High protein cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children ^a	Raw cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children ^b	Other cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children ^c	Testing methods
Energy ^d /[kJ(kcal)/100g] ≥	1 250 (299)	1 506 (360)	1 250(299)	1 250 (299)	-
Protein /[0100kJ(100kcal)] ≥	0.33 (1.4)	0.66 (2.8)	0.33 (1.4)	0.33 (1.4)	GB 5009.5
Fat/ [g/100 kJ(100kcal)] ≤	0.8 (3.3)	1.1 (4.6)	0.8 (3.3)	0.8 (3.3)	GB 5009.6
In which ^e : linoleic acid [g/100 kJ(100kcal)]	-	0.07-0.29 (0.29-1.21)	-	-	GB5009.168
Vitamin A/ [μgRE/100 kJ(100kcal)]	14-43 (59-180)			-	GB5009.82
Vitamin D/ [μg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	0.25 -0.75 (1.05-3.14)			-	GB5009.296
Vitamin B ₁ / [μg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	12.5 -119.5 (52.3 -500)				GB 5009.84

Vitamin C/ [mg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	1.4 -15.6 (5.9 -65)		-	-	GB 5413.18
Calcium/ [mg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	12.0-43.0 (50.2-180)	20.0-43.0 (83.7-180)	12.0-43.0 (50.2-180)	12.0 -43.0 (50.2-180)	GB 5009.92
Iron/ [mg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	0.25-0.50 (1.05-2.09)			-	GB 5009.90
Zinc/ [mg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	0.17-0.46 (0.71-1.92)			-	GB 5009.14
Sodium/ [mg/100kJ(100kcal)] ≤	24.0 (100.4)				GB 5009.91

^a When this kind of food is ready to eat (liquid or semi-solid), its energy value should be ≥ 335 kJ/100g (80 kcal/100g).

^b If vitamin C is added to raw cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children, its content should meet the requirements of cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children in Table 2.

^c If vitamin A, vitamin D, vitamins C, iron, and zinc are added to other cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children, their contents should meet the requirements of cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children in Table 2.

^d Energy is calculated by multiplying the content of protein, fat, and carbohydrate in every 100g products by the energy coefficients of 17 kJ/g, 37 kJ/g and 17 kJ/g respectively (the energy coefficient of dietary fiber is 8 kJ/g), and the sum obtained is in kilojoule/100g (kJ/100g), and then divided by 4.184, which is the value in kcal/100g.

Wherein, A_1 , the content of carbohydrate, is calculated according to formula (1):

$$A_1 = 100 - (A_2 + A_3 + A_4 + A_5 + A_6) \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where:

A_1 - carbohydrate content, g/100g,

A_2 - protein content, g/100g,

A_3 - fat content, g/100g,

A_4 - moisture content, g/100g,

A_5 - ash content, g/100g,

A_6 - dietary fiber content, g/100g.

Carbohydrate content can also be calculated by addition method by adding the contents of starch and sugar after determination.

When dietary fiber is not marked in the nutrition label, it is unnecessary to subtract dietary fiber in the calculation of carbohydrate.

^e Only applies to products with fat > 0.8 g/100 kJ, and both lauric acid and myristic acid are equal to or less than 15% of total fat.

4.4 Optional Nutritional Components Indicators

In addition to the indicators of basic nutritional components specified in 4.3, if one or more components listed in Table 3 are added to the product or are marked on the label, the content shall comply with the provisions in Table 3.

If substances are added into products other than specified in 4.3 and Table 3, they shall comply with relevant national regulations.

Table 3: Optional Nutritional Components Indicators

Item	Indicators	Testing Methods
Vitamin E/ [mg α -TE /100 kJ(100kcal)]	0.08 -1.20 (0.33 -5.02)	GB 5009.82
Vitamin B ₂ / [μg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	13.0 -95.6 (54.4 -400)	GB 5009.85
Vitamin B ₆ / [μg /100 kJ(100kcal)]	8.4-83.6 (35.1-350)	GB 5009.154
Vitamin B ₁₂ / [μg /100 kJ(100kcal)]	0.02-0.20 (0.08-0.8)	GB 5009.285
Nicotinic acid/nicotinamide/ [μg /100 kJ(100kcal)]	83.7-493.8 (350.2-2 066)	GB 5009.89
Folic acid/ [μg /100 kJ(100kcal)]	1.2-11.9 (5.0-50)	GB 5009.211
Pantothenic acid / [μg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	50.4-358.5 (210.9-1 500)	GB 5009.210
Biotin/ [μg /100 kJ(100kcal)]	0.17-2.39 (0.71-10)	GB 5009.259
Phosphorus/ [mg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	8.4 – 30.0 (35.1 – 125.5)	GB 5009.87
Potassium / [mg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	13-66 (56-278)	GB 5009.91
Magnesium/ [mg/100 kJ(100kcal)]	2.08-9.56 (8.7-40)	GB 5009.241

4.5 If one or more of sucrose, fructose, glucose, or glucose syrup are added to the products, the addition amount shall meet the requirements in Table 4.

Table 4: Addition Amount of Sucrose, Fructose, Glucose and Glucose Syrup

Item	Indicators	Testing Methods
Total amount of added sucrose, fructose, glucose and glucose syrup/ [g/100 kJ (kcal)] ≤	0.6 (2.5)	It shall be calculated according to the added amount.

4.6 Other Indicators

Shall comply with provisions of Table 5.

Table 5: Other Indicators

Item	cereal-based supplementa ry foods for infants and young children	High protein cereal-based supplementar y foods for infants and young children	Raw cereal- based supplementar y foods for infants and young children	Other cereal- based supplementary foods for infants and young children	Testing Methods
Moisture ^a / % ≤	6.0		13.5	6.0 ^b	GB 5009.3
Insoluble dietary fiber / % ≤	5.0				GB 5413.6
^a Moisture indicator is not applicable to ready-to-eat cereal-based supplementary foods (liquid or semi-solid).					
^b Moisture indicator for teething biscuits ≤ 10.0%.					

4.7 Contaminant Limits

Shall comply with provisions of GB 2762¹.

4.8 Mycotoxin Limits

Shall comply with provisions of GB 2761².

4.9 Microbial limits

Pathogen limits shall comply with provisions of GB 29921³ and other microbial indicators shall comply with provisions of Table 6.

Table 6: Indicators of Microbial Limit

Item ^c	Sampling plan ^a and limits ^b				Testing methods
	<i>n</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>M</i>	
Total bacterial count ^d	5	2	1 000	10 000	GB 4789.2
Coliform	5	2	10	100	GB 4789.3 plate counting method
^a Analysis and treatment of samples shall be carried out according to GB 4789.1.					
^b Unless otherwise specified, all are expressed in CFU/g or CFU/mL.					
^c Ready-to-eat cereal-based supplementary foods (liquid or semi-solid) should meet the requirements of commercial sterilization and be tested according to the method specified in GB 4789.26.					
^d It is not applicable to raw cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children and products with active bacteria strains (aerobic and facultative anaerobic					

¹ National Food Safety Standard for Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Foods ([GB2762-2022](#)).

² National Food Safety Standard for Maximum Levels of Mycotoxins in Foods ([GB2761-2017](#)).

³ National Food Safety Standard for Limits of Pathogens in Pre-packaged Foods ([GB29921-2021](#)).

bacteria [viable count of active probiotics shall be equal or greater to 10^6 CFU/g(mL).]

4.10 Food Additives and Nutrition Fortification Substances

4.10.1 Use of food additives and nutrition fortification substances shall comply with provisions of GB 2760⁴ and GB 14880⁵.

4.10.2 Quality of food additives and nutrition fortification substances shall comply with corresponding standards and relevant provisions.

4.11 Urease Activity

Urease activity in soy-based infant formulas shall be consistent with provisions of Table 7.

Table 7: Urease Activity Indicators

Item	Indicators	Testing methods
Determination of urease activity ^a	Negative	GB 5009.183
^a Sample quantity of ready-to-eat cereal-based complementary foods (liquid or semi-solid) shall be converted based on content of dry substance.		

5 Others

5.1 Labels

5.1.1 Labels shall comply with GB 13432⁶ and content of “100 kJ” shall be indicated in the nutritional information (table).

5.1.2 The labels shall indicate the product category names according to Article 3.1 to 3.4 of this Standard, such as “high-protein cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children.”

5.1.3 For Article 3.1 Cereal-based supplementary foods for infants and young children (non-ready-to-eat cereals), it shall indicate in the labels as “it can be consumed after being brewed with milk or other proper protein containing liquid” or other similar languages.

5.2 Packaging

Carbon dioxide and/or nitrogen conforming to national food safety standards may serve as packaging medium.

END TRANSLATION

⁴ National Food Safety Standard Usage Standard for Food Additives ([GB2760-2024](#)).

⁵ National Food Safety Standard for Use of Nutritional Fortification Substances in Foods ([GB14880-2012](#)).

⁶ National Food Safety Standard Labeling of Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses ([GB13432-2013](#)).

Attachments:

[GB 10769-2025 Cereal complementary foods for infants and young children.pdf](#)