USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Philippines Notifies Guidelines on Ready-To-Use Therapeutic Foods to WTO TBT Committee

Country: Philippines

Post: Manila

Report Category: Country/Regional FTA's, Trade Policy Incident Report, Trade Policy Monitoring, WTO Notifications, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On August 20, 2024, the Philippines notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of GBT/TBT/N/PHL/336 on the Guidelines on the Adoption of Codex Guidelines for Ready-To-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) (CXC 95-2022) as Technical Regulation. The regulations apply to RUTF for children aged from 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition. The Circular specifies the raw materials and ingredients suitable in the manufacture of RUTF. The deadline for comments on the draft FDA Circular is September 4, 2024.

Background

The Department of Health (DOH) through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is mandated to establish and adopt standard and quality measures to ensure quality and safety of processed foods based on provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 3720, as amended by Executive Order (EO) No. 175, RA 7394 and RA 9711. Pursuant to these laws, DOH and FDA harmonize national standards with international standards and implement measures in the adoption of relevant Codex Standards. On August 20, 2024, the Philippines notified the World Trade organization (WTO) of GBT/TBT/N/PHL/336 on the Guidelines on the Adoption of Codex Guidelines for Ready-To-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) (CXC 95-2022) as Technical Regulation. RUTF is an energy and micronutrient dense food which is used in support of community-based management of acute malnutrition without medical complications by the DOH and local government units.

RUTF Regulations

The Philippines drafted the FDA Circular to provide coherence in the regulations of RUTF and set the guidelines to all Food Business Operators (FBOs) on the use of the revised Codex Guidelines for RUTF. The guidelines set the limits on consumption and quality factors, purity requirements, food additives, contaminants, hygiene, labeling and methods of analysis sampling based on the revised Codex Guidelines for RUTF and existing national policies. Currently, there is no local reference standard to be used as basis in the regulation of RUTF.

The regulations cover RUTF for children aged from 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The draft FDA Circular provides guidelines to all food business operators (FBOs) who are required to secure a Certificate of Product Registration (CFR) before engaging in sale, offer for sale, importation, and distribution of follow up formula or milk supplement and product for young children. The procedure for CPR application shall follow the Electronic Registration System prescribed in FDA Circular 2020-033.

The Circular specifies the raw materials and ingredients suitable in the manufacture of RUTF and the required validation of processing technologies used to prove that they do not alter the nutritional value and integrity of the nutrient content of the products.

The deadline for submission of comments on the Draft FDA Circular is September 4, 2024.

Attachments:

No Attachments.