

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** August 28, 2024

**Report Number:** RP2024-0029

**Report Name:** Philippines Notifies Revised Guidelines for Milk Formula or Supplements to WTO TBT Committee

**Country:** Philippines

**Post:** Manila

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

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**Report Highlights:**

The Philippines recently notified regulations on follow-up formula or milk supplements and products for young children to the World Trade Organization. The deadline for comments is October 18, 2024. The regulations require food business operators to secure a Certificate of Product Registration before engaging in sale, offer for sale, importation, and distribution of these products. The regulations also include product labeling restrictions.

## **Background**

The Department of Health (DOH) through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was 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.

## **Revised Guidelines**

In August 2024, the Philippines notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of [G/TBT/N/PHL/335](#) on the revised Codex Standard for Follow up Formula and Product for Young Children (CXS 156-1987 Rev 2023). The Philippines drafted the [FDA Circular](#) in acknowledgment of the advances in composition of quality factors and purity requirements of follow up formula and product for young children adopting the revised Codex Standards.

The 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](#).

On labeling, the Circular includes a prohibition on the use of nutrition and health claims for foods for infants except where specifically provided for in relevant Codex standards or national legislation. This follows the requirements specified in [Administrative Order 2014-0030](#), [Department Circular 2008-0006](#), implementing rules and regulations of [EO 51](#), and the Guideline for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims ([CAC/GL 23-1997](#)).

The deadline for submission of comments on the [Draft FDA Circular](#) is October 18, 2024.

## **Attachments:**

No Attachments.