

Press Note

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has notified draft regulation for Food for Infant Nutrition Namely Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2019. This revised and comprehensive regulation would supersede the provisions related to Food for Infant Nutrition in sub-regulation 2.1.9 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

The main highlight of this regulation, in addition to the earlier standards, is standards for Infant formula for special medical purpose specifically Food for infants with inborn error in metabolism(IEM) are included in this regulations. Inborn Errors of Metabolism (IEM) is a life threatening special medical condition affecting thousands of infants in the country. Without these specialized diets, children suffering from IEM would not only face cognitive and physical difficulties, but infact would not even survive.

This regulation also contains standards for Premature infant milk substitutes, Lactose free, Lactose & sucrose free infant milk substitute, Sucrose free infant milk substitute Hypoallergenic infant milk substitutes under the Infant formula for special medical purpose and Food for Infants based on traditional food ingredient.

While Foods for Special Medical Purposes are a separate category of foods for infant nutrition, the requirements of the "Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 as amended in 2003 (IMS Act)" would henceforth apply to these products also except the requirement of labelling "MOTHER'S MILK IS BEST FOR YOUR BABY" where breastfeeding is contraindicated on medical grounds for the disease(s), disorder(s) or medical condition(s).

This draft regulation also specifies the compositional/ identity standards of above mentioned products and also specifies the source of the permitted ingredients.

Comments from stakeholder are invited on this draft regulation within 30 days from the date of availability to public and the same would be considered at the time of finalization of this regulations.
