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Israel

FAIRS Subject Report

Trans-Fat Labeling

2007

Approved by:

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Report Highlights:

In July 2007, a bill was presented that will require a separate category for trans-fats content to be listed on nutrition labels for all pre-packed food products and food ingredients for further processing. It is expected that the new regulation will come into effect by the end of 2008.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Tel Aviv [IS1]
[IS]

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SECTION I. SECTOR/PRODUCT(S), LAWS OR REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT AFFECTED:

All packed food products and food ingredients for further processing.

SECTION II. SUMMARY OF SUBJECT OR ACTION BEING TAKEN:

A bill has been presented to the Israeli parliament that would require the Israeli Food and Health Services to enforce a separate category of labeling for trans-fat content on nutrition labels for all packed food products and food ingredients for further processing. According to the bill, the amount and percentage of trans-fat should be listed on the nutrition facts panel if greater than 1 gram per 100 grams. If it's smaller than 1 gram, the content will be stated as "0 grams trans fat" on the Nutrition Facts panel.

Processed food products: The upper limit of trans fat in processed food products will be 5 gram of trans fat per 100 grams. Above this level, the importer/manufacture will have to create a high trans fat warning label, and the content will be stated as "This product contains high levels of trans fat". In addition to this label, the manufacture/importer will have to add another health warning label, on which it will be stated: " The Ministry of Health announces that consumption of these products may cause diseases and obesity".

Raw oil food ingredients (spices, food additives, etc.): The upper limit of trans fat will be 2 grams of trans fat per 100 grams of product. Above this level a high trans fat warning label and a health warning label should be created (the content of the labels will be same as in processed food products)

SECTION III. KEY REGULATORY AGENCY:

Food and Health Services, Ministry of Health

SECTION IV. DISCUSSION OF ISSUE:

Although these regulations must await approval by parliament and will not be implemented immediately, the bill demonstrates the intense interest and concern about trans-fat in foods, and also provides a good idea of where regulations on their content is being channeled.