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Nestlé Policy on Micronutrient Fortification of Foods & Beverages



Issuing Function

CT-Nutrition, Health and Wellness; Corporate Wellness Unit

Target audience

R&D, Application Groups, Marketing, Communication,
NHW Managers, Nutritionists, Public Affairs,
Regulatory Affairs, Legal Affairs

Approver

Executive Board Nestlé S.A.

Replaces

GI-31.028, October 2010 – Nestlé Policy on Fortification
of Food Products with Vitamins, Minerals, and Trace Elements

Repository

All Nestlé Principles and Policies, Standards and
Guidelines can be found in the Centre online repository
at: <http://intranet.nestle.com/nestledocs>

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Design

Nestec Ltd., Corporate Identity & Design,
Vevey, Switzerland

Nestlé Policy on Micronutrient Fortification

The adequate and appropriate dietary intake of essential vitamins, minerals and trace elements (also referred to collectively in this document as micronutrients) are key to meeting nutritional requirements necessary for maintaining health and wellness at all life stages. It is estimated that worldwide more than 2 billion people suffer from some degree of micronutrient deficiency, the most prevalent being iron, vitamin A, iodine and zinc. In addition to the most obvious clinical manifestations, micronutrient malnutrition is responsible for a wide range of non-specific physiological impairments.

Ideally, nutrients that are essential for health should be obtained from a balanced and varied diet. For a number of reasons this is not always possible. The food and beverage industry, therefore, has a unique opportunity to contribute to tackling this major global health problem by improving the nutrition status of people at risk through the addition of relevant micronutrients to foods and beverages. Nestlé has over the decades acquired considerable experience in enhancing the micronutrient profile of its foods and beverages through fortification.

The aim of this Policy is to promote the micronutrient fortification of foods and beverages at levels that are sufficient to help to improve and maintain health, but in amounts that do not increase the risk of developing adverse consequences from excessive consumption.

Nestlé has a global commitment to help reduce the risk of under-nutrition through micronutrient fortification as part of its global Creating Shared Value commitments. By 2016, we intend to reach 200 billion micronutrient-fortified servings of foods and beverages annually worldwide, particularly focusing on children and women of childbearing age. Nestlé provided in 2014 alone more than 180 billion servings of micronutrient fortified foods and beverages.

Policy Targets

Nestlé uses the latest micronutrient deficiency data from international or national health authorities in order to target the fortification of its foods and beverages accordingly.

- Nestlé complies with applicable local regulations. Where local regulations do not exist, *CODEX Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL2, 1985) and *CODEX Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) apply.
- Nestlé sets the target for fortification to $\geq 15\%$ NRV (Nutrient Reference Value) of the relevant micronutrient(s) per individual serving.
- In addition, Nestlé places an upper limit on fortification levels at a default level of 20% of the age-specific Tolerable Upper Intake Level (UL) per serving.
- A comprehensive internal standard for the implementation of this Policy guarantees its application throughout the Company.

Scope

Nestlé targets micronutrient fortification of foods and beverages that meet the following criteria:

- Contribute to meet the requirements of a large part of the population at risk of developing a specific deficiency,
- Are consumed widely and regularly,
- Contribute to a generally healthy diet
- Are affordable and likely to be purchased by the population at risk.

This Policy applies to all foods and beverages for human consumption that are sold under brands owned by Nestlé. Products for infants and toddlers, for special medical purposes or with a strong scientific rationale, such as maternal nutrition products, are not covered by this Policy.

This Policy forms a central part of Nestlé's ambition to enhance the quality of life of our consumers by providing healthier and tastier food and beverage choices. As the world's leading Nutrition, Health and Wellness Company, we also continue to drive technological innovations that will enable further micronutrient optimisation in our product portfolio without compromising on safety, quality and taste.

