

Nestlé responds to allegations of non-compliance with the WHO Code in Armenia

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Baby Milk Action has recently published on its website allegations about non-compliance with the WHO Code in Armenia. We take all concerns about our marketing of breast-milk substitutes seriously and have investigated all these allegations.

Nestlé supports breastfeeding as the best start in life for babies

There is no question about breast milk being the best start a baby can have in life and no information or logo on our infant formula labels claim or imply that our product is equal or superior to breast milk. In addition, the following statement, "Important notice: Breast-milk is best for babies. Before you decide to use an infant formula consult your doctor or clinic for advice", appears on all our infant formula products.

However, infant formula is a vital product for babies who, for whatever reason, cannot be breastfed - in fact it is the only product recognised to be a suitable for such a child by the World Health Organization. When an infant formula is needed, it is therefore crucial that parents can choose the appropriate one for their individual baby among the different products available. The 'Protect' logo aims at differentiating a specific infant formula from other products.

Information material for health care professionals

It is also important that doctors know about the different products available for mothers who cannot breastfeed. Our communications to health professionals aim at providing them with the latest research and developments about breast-milk substitutes so that they can, in turn, perform their obligation to provide advice to parents on infant feeding, for both breastfed and non-breastfed babies. In line with the WHO Code, information that we provide to health professionals is factual and based on scientific studies and never states or implies that our products are equal or superior to breast milk.

Complementary foods and growing-up milks

We do not market complementary foods for use before six months of age in the 152 countries classified as 'higher-risk' (i.e. countries with high mortality and malnutrition rates for children below 5 years). Because the needs of every baby vary, the labels of our products recommend mothers to consult their health professionals for advice on when their individual baby needs introduction of complementary foods.

In these 'higher-risk' countries, we do not advertise or promote baby milks for babies below one year of age. Our growing-up milks, such as NAN 3, are milks adapted to the nutritional requirements of young children above the age of one year.

Free supplies of specialty formula Alfaré

Alfaré is a formula for special medical purposes (FSMP) indicated for babies with severe conditions where breast milk would not be tolerated. Nestlé may supply Alfaré to health care facilities upon a specific request by the health care facility and for use by babies who are in intensive care units and cannot be breastfed. Such donation is subject to a strict procedure and is monitored by Nestlé.

In line with our policies, Nestlé does not donate breast-milk substitutes to health care facilities in higher-risk countries.