

# Rounding rules of declared values on nutrition labelling

Legislative Proposal Relating to  
Formula Products and Foods Intended for  
Infants and Young Children under the Age of 36 Months  
in Hong Kong

4th Technical Meeting with Trade  
(Laboratory Service Providers)  
17 October 2013

# Background

---

- ❑ All nutrient content expressions must be accurate and truthful
- ❑ Energy value and amount of nutrients should be expressed in absolute number
- ❑ Ranges, including maximum (e.g. >3g) and minimum (e.g. <0.5mg) are not acceptable
- ❑ Rounding rules are suggested to provide as a reference for the declaration of energy value and amount of nutrients

# Rounding Rule in existing NL Scheme

- Rounding rules are provided in Table 2 of the Technical Guidance Notes on Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claims

Table 2 Units and Rounding Rules for Labelling of Selected Nutrients

	Unit	Round to	Definition of "0" <sup>2</sup> (per 100 g/mL)
Energy	kcal or kJ	1	≤ 4 kcal or 17 kJ
Protein	g	0.1	≤ 0.5 g
Carbohydrates (Available or Total)	g	0.1	≤ 0.5 g
Total fat	g	0.1	≤ 0.5 g
Saturated fatty acids	g	0.1	≤ 0.5 g
Trans fatty acids	g	0.1	≤ 0.3 g
Sodium	mg	1	≤ 5 mg
Sugars	g	0.1	≤ 0.5 g
Dietary Fibre	g	0.1	≤ 1.0 g
Cholesterol	mg	1	≤ 5 mg

# Rounding Rule in existing NL Scheme

---

- Other nutrients being expressed in gram (g) and milligram (mg) can be rounded to the nearest 0.1g and 1mg respectively
- Definition of “0” is also provided

# Rounding rules for nutrient values of formula products and foods

---

- Rounding rules for vitamins and minerals (except sodium)
  - Considering the large ranges of the amounts between vitamins and minerals in formula products
  - nutrients expressed in milligram (mg) and microgram ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) can be rounded to the nearest 0.1mg and 0.1 $\mu\text{g}$  respectively?
  - round up using significant figures?  
(e.g. 2 significant figures)

# Definition of “0” for nutrient values of formula products and foods

---

- Definition of “0” for vitamins and minerals (except sodium)
  - Considering
    - (i) the large ranges of the amounts between vitamins and minerals in the formula products
    - (ii) the usefulness of the definition of “0” in formula products and foods
  - Is it necessary to define definition of “0” for vitamins and minerals?
  - Define definitions of “0” for vitamins and minerals based on the method detection limits?

# For comments and discussion