

**Ministerial Resolution No. (257) of 2020 Concerning the Implementation of Some Provisions of Cabinet Resolution No. (21) of 2018 Regulating the Marketing of Products Related to Infant and Young Child**

The Minister of Health and Prevention:

- Having taken cognizance of the Constitution;
- Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 Concerning the Mandates of Ministries, Powers of Ministers and its amendments;
- Cabinet Resolution No. (6) of 2013 Concerning the Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Health;
- Cabinet Resolution No. (21) of 2018 Regulating the Marketing of Products Related to Infant and Young Child;

And based on the requirements of the public interest ...

**Have decided as follows:**

**Article (1)**

The words and expressions contained in this Resolution shall have the same meanings mentioned in Cabinet Resolution No. 21 of 2018 referred hereto, unless the context requires otherwise.

**Article 2**

In addition to the conditions mentioned in Article No. (5) of Cabinet Resolution No. (21) of 2018 referred to above, the information and educational materials of all forms related to the product must include the following:

1. Information about maternal nutrition that helps mothers to continue breastfeeding;
2. Information about the social, financial, and health effects resulting from using infant formula and inappropriate feeding methods, especially the health effects resulting from unnecessary or improper use of infant formula or any of the breast milk substitutes (BMS)

**Article 3**

Without prejudice to the terms and conditions contained in Article No. (6) of Cabinet Resolution No. (21) of 2018 referred hereto, it is permissible to provide health workers with the approved sources of studies that support the relationship between the product and its components covered by the aforementioned Resolution and the health, growth and development of infants and young children, provided that such sources of studies are based on reliable and accredited research and in accordance with the following conditions:

1. The goal of conducting the study or research shall be specified;
2. The study shall be based on reliable research that is not sponsored or supported by the provider, and the researchers must acknowledge that there is no conflict of interest;
3. The study must be published in accredited scientific journals;
4. Any research that is conducted for comparing infant formula with breast milk with the aim of supporting infant formula shall not be accepted;

\*In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.

5. Obtaining a prior approval from the Concerned Health Authority to the results of the study before providing health workers with this study or its results, as the case may be.

#### **Article 4**

In addition to the conditions set forth in Article No. (7) of Cabinet Resolution No. (21) of 2018 referred hereto, the identification card must not contain any indication of any means of communicating with mothers; such as phone numbers, e-mail address, or website names, and it must contain the following over it:

1. An important note or the equivalent in a visible place and in large letters not less than one-third of the font size of the product name and not less than 2 mm in height, including confirmation that breastfeeding is the best and that breast milk is the optimal nutrition for healthy growth and development of infants and young children and for the prevention of diseases;
2. The following statement: (This product is not sterilized and the correct instructions must be followed to prepare it)

#### **Article 5**

In addition to the conditions of infant formula bottles and packages mentioned in Article No. (10) of Cabinet Resolution No. (21) of 2018 referred hereto, the statements written on the infant formula bottles and packages must be as follows:

1. There must a statement of "an important note" written in a clear, easy-to-read and capitalized letter on the bottle or package, and under it the following must be written "Important note: Breastfeeding is the best and breast milk is the optimal nutrition for healthy growth and development of infants and young children and for the prevention of diseases";
2. They must contain the name and address of the distributor or producer;
3. They should not contain statement, pictures, drawings, or any other forms that encourage or promote breastfeeding abandonment;
4. They must have an explanation of the methods of cleaning and sterilization, along with words and pictures;
5. They must include the following warning statements:
  - a. "It is necessary for the health of the child to follow the instructions on cleaning and sterilization."
  - b. "In the event that the infant becomes accustomed to using feeding bottles, the child may refuse to breast-feed." The font size of such information shall not be less than one-third of the font size of the product name and not less than 2 mm in height;
  - c. "The use of pacifiers and feeding bottles can affect breastfeeding."

#### **Article 6**

Without prejudice to the provisions of Paragraph (2), Article No. (11) of Cabinet Resolution No. (21) of 2018 referred hereto, the supplier who has the product intended to be marketed inside the State must initiate its registration at the Ministry and reconcile its status within one year from the date of publishing this Resolution in the Official Gazette of the State. The supplier may submit a

request to the Ministry to extend this period for similar period once only, and the extension is done after ensuring that the registration request is under process.

#### **Article 7**

All provision in violation or in contradiction with the provisions of this Resolution shall be abrogated.

#### **Article 8**

This Resolution shall be published in the Official Gazette, and it shall come into force the day following the date of its publication. The Competent Health Authority and the Concerned Authority shall follow up the implementation of the contents herein, each within the limits of its competence.

**Abdul Rahman Bin Mohammed Al Owais**

**Minister of Ministry of Health and Prevention**

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