

**Joint order of the Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries and the Minister of Health No. 281-16 of 21 Rabii II 1437 (1 February 2016) setting up the requirements and methods for the inclusion of nutritional information in the labels of prepackaged food products.**

(OG No. 6488 of 04/08/2016, page 1277)

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MARITIME FISHERIES,**

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH,**

Having regard to Decree No.2-12-389 of 11 jourmada II 1434 (22 April 2013) setting up the conditions and procedures for labeling food products, as amended and supplemented, particularly its articles 11 and 26,

**ORDER:**

**ARTICLE 1** - The inclusion in the labeling of prepackaged food products of the nutritional information referred to in 11) of article 11 of the Decree no. 2-12-389, shall have to meet the requirements and terms set by this joint order.

Only the nutritional claims appearing in Annex I to this joint order may be mentioned in the labeling of prepackaged food products or in their advertisement.

**ARTICLE 2** - All nutritional information shall have to be grouped together in the form of a nutritional declaration conforming to the model set out in Annex II to this joint order.

This nutritional declaration shall include the mandatory information provided for in 1) below and, where applicable, one or more of the additional information mentioned in 2) below:

1) Mandatory information:

- a) energy value; and
- b) the amount of fats, saturated fatty acids, carbohydrates, sugars, proteins and salt;

2) Additional information:

- a) monounsaturated fatty acids;
- b) polyunsaturated fatty acids;
- c) polyols;
- d) starch;
- e) dietary fiber;
- f) Any vitamins or mineral salts listed in A of Annex III to this joint order and present in significant quantities in accordance with B of said Annex III.

When the labeling of a prepackaged food product includes a nutritional declaration as referred to above, the mandatory information referred to above may be mentioned several times in the labeling. In this case, at least one of these pieces of information shall appear in the main visual field.

**ARTICLE 3** - In the labeling of glass bottles intended to be reused and beverages containing more than 1.2% alcohol by volume, the nutritional declaration may be limited to the energy value alone.

**ARTICLE 4** - The energy value of the food product concerned is calculated using the conversion coefficients listed in Annex IV to this joint order.

The declared values are, depending on the case, mean values established based on:

- a) the analysis of the food product carried out by the producer;
- b) calculation made from known or actual mean values relating to the ingredients used.

**ARTICLE 5** - The energy value and the quantities of nutrients are expressed per 100 g or 100 ml, using the units of measurement set out in Annex III to this joint order.

The indications relating to vitamins and mineral salts are also expressed per 100 g or 100 ml, as a percentage of the nutritional reference values set in A of the aforementioned Annex III.

The energy value and the quantities of nutrients referred to above may be expressed, where appropriate, per 100 g or 100 ml, as a percentage of the nutritional reference values set in C of the Annex III of this joint order. In this case, the following statement must be indicated in the immediate vicinity: "Reference intake for a typical adult (8400 kJ/2000 kcal)".

**ARTICLE 6** - The nutritional information referred to in article 2 above shall:

- meet the characteristics provided for by the decree No. 2-12-389 referred to above;
- appear on the label in the same visual field;
- be presented in the order provided for in Annex II to this joint order. However, in cases where space on the label does not permit, this information can be presented in linear form.

**ARTICLE 7** - This joint order shall be published in the Official Gazette.

**Rabat, 21 Rabii II 1437 (1 February 2016).**

**The Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, AZIZ AKHANNOUCH**  
**The Minister of Health, EL HOUSSAINE LOUARDI**

## **ANNEX I**

(Article 1 of the joint order of the Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries and the Minister of Health No. 281-16)

### **Nutritional claims and conditions applicable thereto:**

#### **I- Energy value claims:**

##### **“LOW ENERGY VALUE”:**

A claim that a food product has a low energy value or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made for a product containing a maximum of 40 kcal (170 kJ) per 100 g in the case of solids or a maximum of 20 kcal (80 kJ) per 100 ml in the case of liquids. In the case of table-top sweeteners, the limit of 4 kcal (17 kJ) per serving, with sweetening properties equivalent to 6 g sucrose (approximately one teaspoon of sucrose), applies.

##### **“REDUCED ENERGY VALUE”:**

A claim that a food product has a reduced energy value or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the energy value of that product is reduced by at least 30%, indicating the or the characteristics resulting in the reduction of the total energy value of said food product.

##### **“WITHOUT ENERGY SUPPLY”:**

A claim that a food product has no energy content or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains a maximum of 4 kcal (17 kJ) per 100 ml. In the case of table-top sweeteners, the limit of 0.4 kcal (1.7 kJ) per serving, having sweetening properties equivalent to 6 g sucrose (approximately one teaspoon of sucrose), applies.

#### **II- Fat claims:**

##### **“LOW-FAT CONTENT”:**

A claim that a food product has a low-fat content or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains no more than 3 g fat per 100 g in the case of solids or 1.5 g fat per 100 ml in the case of liquids (1.8 g fat per 100 ml for semi-skimmed milk).

##### **“FAT-FREE”:**

A claim that a food product does not contain fat or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product does not contain more than 0.5 g fat per 100 g or 100 ml. Claims such as “X% fat free” shall not be used.

##### **“LOW SATURATED FAT”:**

A claim that a food product is low in saturated fat or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the sum of the saturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids contained in the product is not greater than 1.5 g per 100 g of solid or 0.75 g per 100 ml of liquid, the sum of saturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids cannot produce, in both cases, more than 10% of the energy.

##### **“FREE SATURATED FATS”:**

A claim that a food product does not contain saturated fat or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the sum of saturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids does not exceed 0.1 g of saturated fat for 100 g or 100 ml.

### **III- Sugar Claims:**

#### **“LOW SUGAR CONTENT”:**

A claim that a food product has a low sugar content or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product does not contain more than 5 g of sugars per 100 g in the case of solids or 2.5 g of sugars per 100 ml in the case of liquids.

#### **" WITHOUT SUGAR " :**

A claim that a food product does not contain sugars or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product does not contain more than 0.5 g of sugars per 100 g or per 100 ml.

#### **" NO ADDED SUGAR " :**

A claim that no sugars have been added to a food product or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product does not contain added monosaccharides or disaccharides or any other food product used for its sweetening properties. If sugars are naturally present in the food product, the following indication shall also appear on the label:

“CONTAINS NATURALLY PRESENT SUGARS”.

### **IV- Salt Claims:**

#### **“LOW IN SODIUM OR SALT”:**

A claim that a food product is low in sodium or salt or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product does not contain more than 0.12 g of sodium or the equivalent in salt per 100 g or 100 ml. Regarding waters, other than natural mineral waters, this value shall not exceed 2 mg of sodium per 100 ml.

#### **“VERY LOW IN SODIUM OR SALT”:**

A claim that a food product is very low in sodium or salt or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product does not contain more than 0.04 g of sodium or the equivalent in salt per 100 g or 100 ml. This claim shall not be used for natural mineral waters and other waters.

#### **“NO SODIUM OR SALT”:**

A claim that a food product does not contain sodium or salt or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product does not contain more than 0.005 g of sodium or the equivalent in salt per 100 g.

### **V- Fiber claims:**

#### **“FIBER SOURCE”:**

A claim that a food product is a source of fiber or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains at least 3 g of fiber per 100 g or at least 1.5 g of fiber per 100 kcal.

#### **“RICH IN FIBER”:**

A claim that a food product is high in fiber or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains at least 6 g of fiber per 100 g or at least 3 g of fiber per 100 kcal.

### **VI- Protein Claims:**

#### **“PROTEIN SOURCE”:**

A claim that a food product is a source of protein or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if at least 12% of the energy value of the food product is produced by protein.

**“RICH IN PROTEIN”:**

A claim that a food product is rich in protein or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if at least 20% of the energy value of the food product is produced by protein.

**VII- Vitamin, mineral and nutrient claims:**

**“SOURCE OF [NAME OF VITAMINS] AND/OR [NAME OF MINERALS]”:**

A claim that a food product is a source of vitamins and/or minerals or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains at least the significant quantity defined in B of the Annex III below.

**“RICH IN [NAME OF VITAMINS] AND/OR [NAME OF MINERALS]”:**

A claim that a food product is rich in vitamins and/or minerals or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains at least twice the content required for the claim “source of [NAME OF VITAMINS] and/or [NAME OF MINERALS]”.

**“CONTAINS [NAME OF NUTRIENT OR OTHER SUBSTANCE]”:**

A claim that a food product contains a nutrient or other substance for which this joint order does not lay down specific conditions or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product complies with all the provisions of this joint order. For vitamins and minerals, the conditions provided for the claim “source of [NAME OF VITAMIN] AND/OR [NAME OF MINERAL]” shall apply.

**“ENRICHED WITH [NAME OF NUTRIENT]”:**

A claim stating that the content of one or more nutrients other than vitamins or minerals has been increased or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product meets the conditions applicable to the “source of” claim and if the increase in this content is at least 30% compared to a similar product.

**“REDUCED IN [NAME OF NUTRIENT]”:**

A claim stating that the content of one or more nutrients has been reduced or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the reduction in this content is at least 30% compared to a similar product, unless it concerns micronutrients for which a difference of 10% compared to the reference values or if it concerns sodium or salt equivalent for which a difference of 25% is admissible.

**VIII- Other claims:**

**“LIGHT”:**

A claim that a product is “light” or any other claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall meet the same conditions as those applicable to the terms “reduced”. It shall also be accompanied by an indication of the characteristic(s) leading to the weight reduction of the food product.

**“NATURALLY/NATURAL”:**

Where a food product naturally fulfills the condition(s) set out in this Annex for the use of a nutrition claim, the term “naturally/natural” may accompany that claim.

**“SOURCE OF OMEGA-3 FATTY ACID”:**

A claim that a food product is a source of omega-3 fatty acid or any claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains at least 0.3 galphalinolenic acid for 100 g and 100 kcal or at least 40 mg of eicosapentaenoic acid and docosahexenoic acid combined for 100 g and 100 kcal.

**“RICH IN OMEGA-3 FATTY ACID”:**

A claim that a food product is rich in omega-3 fatty acid or any claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains at least 0.6 galphalinolenic

acid for 100 g and 100 kcal or at least 80 mg of eicosapentaenoic acid and docosahexenoic acid combined for 100 g and 100 kcal.

**“RICH IN MONOUNSATURATED FATS”:**

A claim that a food product is high in monounsaturated fats or any claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains at least 45% fatty acids derived from monounsaturated fats and if the energy provided by monounsaturated fats represents more than 20% of the energy intake of the product.

**“RICH IN POLYUNSATURATED FATS”:**

A claim that a food product is high in polyunsaturated fats or any claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains at least 45% fatty acids derived from polyunsaturated fats and if the energy provided by polyunsaturated fats represents more than 20% of the energy intake of the product.

**“RICH IN UNSATURATED FATS”:**

A claim that a food product is high in unsaturated fats or any claim likely to have the same meaning for the consumer shall only be made if the product contains at least 70% fatty acids derived from unsaturated fats and if the energy provided by unsaturated fats represents more than 20% of the energy intake of the product.

## Appendix II

(Article 2 of the joint order of the Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries and the Minister of Health No. 281-16)

### EXPRESSION AND PRESENTATION OF THE NUTRITIONAL DECLARATION

The units of measurement to be used in the nutrition declaration for energy [kilojoules (kJ) and kilocalories (kcal)] and for mass [grams (g), milligrams (mg) or micrograms (µg)] and the order of presentation of information, where applicable, shall be as follows:

| Nutritional information         | Unit of measurement (for 100g/100ml)      |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Energy*                         | kJ/kcal                                   |
| Fats*                           | G   |
| of which:                       |   |
| — saturated fatty acids*        | G   |
| — monounsaturated fatty acids** | G   |
| — polyunsaturated fatty acids** | G   |
| Carbohydrates*                  | G   |
| of which :                      |   |
| — Sugars*                       | G   |
| — Polyols**                     | G   |
| — Starch**                      | G   |
| Dietary fiber**                 | G   |
| Proteins*                       | G   |
| Salt*                           | G   |
| Vitamins and mineral salts**    | the units listed in A) of Annex III below |

(\*) Nutritional information constituting the mandatory content of the nutrition declaration.

(\*\*) Nutritional information that may supplement the mandatory content of the nutrition declaration.

## Annex III

(Article 2 of the joint order of the Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries and the Minister of Health No. 281-16)

### A/ Vitamins and minerals that can be declared and nutritional reference values:

| VITAMINS AND MINERAL SALTS | NUTRITIONAL REFERENCE<br>VALUES<br>(Recommended daily intake - RDI) |
|----------------------------|---|
| Vitamin A (µg)             | 800   |
| Vitamin E (mg)             | 12  |
| Vitamin C (mg)             | 80  |
| Riboflavin (mg)            | 1.4   |
| Vitamin B6 (mg)            | 1.4   |
| Vitamin B12 (µg)           | 2.5   |
| Pantothenic acid (mg)      | 6   |
| Chloride (mg)              | 800   |
| Phosphorus (mg)            | 700   |
| Iron (mg)                  | 14  |
| Copper (mg)                | 1   |
| Fluoride (mg)              | 3.5   |
| Chromium (µg)              | 40  |
| Iodine (µg)                | 150   |
| Vitamin D (µg)             | 5   |
| Vitamin K (µg)             | 75  |
| Thiamine (mg)              | 1.1   |
| Niacin (mg)                | 16  |
| Folic acid (µg)            | 200   |
| Biotin (µg)                | 50  |
| Potassium (mg)             | 2,000   |
| Calcium (mg)               | 800   |
| Magnesium (mg)             | 375   |
| Zinc (mg)                  | 10  |
| Manganese (mg)             | 2   |
| Selenium (µg)              | 55  |
| Molybdenum (µg)            | 50  |

### B/ Significant quantity of vitamins and mineral salts:

The following values should be taken into consideration:

- 15% of the nutritional reference values referred to in A per 100 g or 100 ml in the case of products other than drinks,
- 7.5% of the nutritional reference values referred to in A per 100 ml in the case of drinks, or
- 15% of the nutritional reference values referred to in A for serving if the packaging contains only one serving.

### C/ Reference intakes of energy and certain nutrients excluding vitamins and mineral salts (adults):

| Energy or nutrient:   | Reference intake:<br>Recommended daily intake |
|-----------------------|---|
| Energy                | 8400 kJ (2000 kcal)                           |
| Total fats            | 70 g  |
| Saturated fatty acids | 20 g  |
| Carbohydrates         | 260 g   |
| Sugars                | 90 g  |
| Proteins              | 50 g  |
| Salt                  | 6 g   |



## Appendix IV

(Article 4 of the joint order of the Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries and the Minister of Health No. 281-16)

| NUTRIENTS                         | CONVERSION COEFFICIENTS |      |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------|
|                                   | kcal/g                  | kJ/g |
| Carbohydrates (except polyols)    | 4                       | 17   |
| Polyols                           | 2.4                     | 10   |
| Proteins                          | 4                       | 17   |
| Fats                              | 9                       | 37   |
| Alcohol (ethanol)                 | 7                       | 29   |
| Organic acids                     | 3                       | 13   |
| Different forms of “salatrim” (*) | 6                       | 25   |
| Dietary fiber                     | 2                       | 8    |
| Erythritol                        | 0                       | 0    |

(\*) Short- and long-chain acyl triglyceride molecule