



Infant Nutrition Council

Industry supporting both Breastfeeding & Infant Formula

28 September 2010

Statement about Soy Infant Formula and GM Food

The Infant Nutrition Council is aware of the debate and sensitivity surrounding genetically modified foods. Member companies who manufacture soy based infant formula have chosen, therefore, to source non-genetically modified ingredients. For formula-fed babies who need to avoid dairy products, such as those with cow's milk allergy, soy based products are an important alternative.

Companies supplying soy or maize-based ingredients to Infant Nutrition Council members provide either identity-preserved certification or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing that is conducted independently and renewed on a biennial basis.

Identity preserved certification is a rigorous process by a third-party that traces the ingredient from being a seed to a finished product. This process ensures segregation of non GM ingredients during all phases of the farming, handling and processing cycle.

PCR testing detects sequences of DNA that are specific to genetically modified organisms and is highly sensitive.

Health authorities acknowledge that products grown without genetic modification may unintentionally contain traces of genetically modified organisms, due to cross-pollination during cultivation, harvesting, storage, transport or processing despite all rigorous processes that ingredients suppliers put in place. This is a well-recognised phenomenon and is why countries around the world allow a varying amount to be present without requiring a finished product to be labelled as a GM food.

The regulations in Australia and New Zealand are among some of the strictest. All genetically modified foods intended for sale in Australia and New Zealand must undergo a safety evaluation by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). FSANZ will not approve a GM food unless it is safe to eat.

FSANZ regulatory limits permit amounts of no more than 1% of genetically modified material per ingredient that is unintentionally present, without requiring a product to be labelled as a GM food. The Infant Nutrition Council members comply with these labelling laws.

Further details on GM food labelling, including a full explanation of the exemptions and the results of a 2004 review of GM labelling, can be found at the FSANZ website <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumerinformation/gmfoods/>.

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