The International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes is an international agreement that was first adopted in 1981 by the World Health Assembly and most recently revised in 2005. It is designed to protect breastfeeding and ensure that infant feeding is safe and healthy. The Code applies only in developing countries, and it is implemented through national laws and regulations. The Code's provisions are enforced through inspections and monitoring, and non-compliance with the Code can lead to sanctions and the suspension of marketing activities.

The Code is based on several key principles, including:

1. **Replacement feeding as the exception:** The Code encourages the use of replacement feeding only when breastfeeding is not possible or when it poses a health risk to the infant.
2. **Protection of breastfeeding:** The Code aims to protect breastfeeding through measures such as the right of women to breastfeed in public places and the provision of paid maternity leave.
3. **Promotion of breastfeeding:** The Code promotes breastfeeding through measures such as the provision of breastfeeding-friendly workplaces and the prohibition of commercial promotion of breast-milk substitutes.
4. **Transparency and accountability:** The Code requires countries to report on their Code implementation, and the Code's decisions are made transparently.

The Code's provisions are monitored by the International Code Documentation Centre (ICDC), which was established by the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) to support implementation of the Code and to ensure that its provisions are respected.

KEY TO CHART CATEGORIES

**Law:** The country has either:
- adopted recent legislation encompassing all or nearly all provisions of the International Code and the subsequent WHA resolutions;
- enacted recent legislation encompassing all or nearly all provisions of the International Code and the subsequent WHA resolutions.

**No action:** The country has adopted only a few provisions of the International Code and the subsequent WHA resolutions.

**Being studied:** A government committee in these countries is still studying how best to implement the International Code. There may be draft legislation but it is not in its final stage.

**Endorsed by the WHA in 2002, the Global Strategy identifies the Code as an area for high priority action. The Convention requires governments to take steps to develop policies and programs that support breastfeeding.**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a United Nations treaty that sets out the rights of the child. The Convention states that breastfeeding is a basic human right, and it requires states to take steps to protect and promote breastfeeding. The CRC also requires states to take steps to protect and promote breast-milk substitutes, and it requires states to take steps to protect and promote breastfeeding-friendly environments.

**Code implementation worldwide:** Since 1981, 70% of the 190 countries listed in this chart have taken some kind of action to implement the International Code. Implementation and enforcement is known to be lacking in many countries where national measures are weak. The annual survey of the world breastfeeding market finds that up to 40% of breast-milk substitutes and infant formula are sold illegally. Only enforced legislation to curb commercial promotion can give breastfeeding a better chance.

**Disregard for global standards and national laws:** Code violations continue in all countries. There are several reasons for this, including:
- Lack of political will and commitment to the Code's principles.
- Weak national laws and regulations that fail to provide adequate protection for breastfeeding.
- Lack of enforcement and monitoring of Code implementation.

**Maturity protection at the workplace:** For a woman to be able to breastfeed successfully, she needs support in the workplace. Legislation and regulations are necessary to ensure that women receive adequate maternity leave from their jobs, as well as support during the workday for breastfeeding or expressing breastmilk.

**Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding:** The Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding is a UN initiative that aims to promote breastfeeding and improve infant and young child feeding practices. The Strategy is designed to support countries in developing and implementing policies and programs that promote breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

**The Innovation Centre for Breastfeeding** (ICBF) is a global network of breastfeeding champions that works to promote breastfeeding and support breastfeeding-friendly environments. The ICBF is supported by the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) and the International Code Documentation Centre (ICDC).
Many provisions law

No information has been received from (Code) in 193 Congo, People's Rep. of
Partial implementation in Mass., USA.

Macao, SAR China

Status of the Code

By country

Tonga
Solomon Islands
Palau
New Zealand
Kiribati
Fiji
Cook Islands
Oceania
Uzbekistan
United Arab Emirates
Syria
Sri Lanka
Saudia Arabia
Myanmar
Maldives
Kyrgyzstan
Korea, Rep. of
Korea, Dem. P. R. of
Jordan
Iran
India
China
Brunei
Bangladesh
Afghanistan

** Africa **

** Asia **

** Americas **

** Europe **

** Oceania **

This chart shows the status of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (Code) in 193 countries. The nine row categories (see detail legend) indicate each country's current position.

- **30 countries** in category 1 have implemented most of the Code and subsequently their Health Assembly resolutions by means of a comprehensive law or decree or other legally enforceable measure. Bolivia, Germany, Liechtenstein and Malta are new entries in this category. A few countries have recently introduced new legal measures that reflect substantial improvements, namely, Greece, Lithuania, Philippines, Columbia, Tanzania and Uganda.

- **30 countries** in category 2 have implemented parts of the Code and consequent Health Assembly resolutions, but not all provisions. The Code in the 30 countries where few provisions are drafted, awaiting final approval.

- **6 countries** in category 3 have implemented parts of the Code as draft legislation. These are marked with the letter ‘c’.

- **18 countries** in category 4 have implemented parts of the Code and consequent Health Assembly resolutions but not all provisions. The Code in the 18 countries where few provisions are drafted, awaiting final approval.

- **18 countries** in category 5 have implemented parts of the Code and consequent Health Assembly resolutions but not all provisions. The Code in the 18 countries where few provisions are drafted, awaiting final approval.

- **18 countries** in category 6 have implemented parts of the Code and consequent Health Assembly resolutions but not all provisions. The Code in the 18 countries where few provisions are drafted, awaiting final approval.

- **30 countries** in category 7 have implemented a few voluntary provisions of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes. Malaysia is going through a review of the scope of its voluntary code while South Africa intends to replace its agreement with a law.

- **30 countries** in category 8 have implemented few voluntary provisions of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **20 countries** in category 9 have implemented less than 10 voluntary provisions of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **20 countries** in category 10 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **20 countries** in category 11 have implemented the Code in parts and consequent Health Assembly resolutions are new entries in this category.

- **20 countries** in category 12 have implemented the Code in parts and consequent Health Assembly resolutions are new entries in this category.

- **30 countries** in category 13 have implemented the Code as a voluntary measure or as a national policy or guidelines. Some countries in this category have recently introduced new legal measures that reflect substantial improvements, namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Greece.

- **18 countries** in category 14 have implemented the Code as a voluntary measure or as a national policy or guidelines. Some countries in this category have recently introduced new legal measures that reflect substantial improvements, namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Greece.

- **18 countries** in category 15 have implemented the Code as a voluntary measure or as a national policy or guidelines. Some countries in this category have recently introduced new legal measures that reflect substantial improvements, namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Greece.

- **18 countries** in category 16 have implemented the Code as a voluntary measure or as a national policy or guidelines. Some countries in this category have recently introduced new legal measures that reflect substantial improvements, namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Greece.

- **18 countries** in category 17 have implemented the Code as a voluntary measure or as a national policy or guidelines. Some countries in this category have recently introduced new legal measures that reflect substantial improvements, namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Greece.

- **18 countries** in category 18 have implemented the Code as a voluntary measure or as a national policy or guidelines. Some countries in this category have recently introduced new legal measures that reflect substantial improvements, namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Greece.

- **30 countries** in category 19 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 20 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 21 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 22 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 23 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 24 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 25 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 26 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 27 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 28 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 29 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.

- **30 countries** in category 30 have implemented less than 1 voluntary provision of the Code. They are new arrivals after long-drawn drafting processes.