

The Law of Azerbaijan Republic on feeding of infants and young children

This Law defines the basic principles and organizational-legal bases of protection and promotion of Breastfeeding of infants and young children; control of artificial food through import, production, commercial activities and advertising.

Chapter I

General Provisions

Article 1. Basic concepts

- 1.0. Main concepts used in this Law express the following meanings:
 - 1.0.1. Infant – a child under 1 year;
 - 1.0.2. Young child – a child from 1 year up to 3 years old
 - 1.0.3. Natural nutrition – breastfeeding of infants and young children;
 - 1.0.4. Exclusive – exclusive breastfeeding of infants till 6 months
 - 1.0.5. Donor mother – breastfeeding by other nursing mother
 - 1.0.6. Breast-milk substitutes – foodstuffs sold or presented as full or partial substitutes of breast-milk for infants and young children
 - 1.0.7. Infant food – artificial food sold as a partial substitute of breast-milk for nutrition of infants during first months of life and meeting the nutritional need completely;
 - 1.0.8. Special food formula (composition) – food formula # 1 prepared in industrial way in compliance with governmental standards and aimed to meeting nutrition needs of infants under 6 months; food formula # 2 prepared in industrial way in compliance with governmental and international standards and aimed to meeting nutritional needs of infants from 6 months up to 3 years old, and milk product of animal or vegetable origin.
 - 1.0.9. Additional food – any foodstuff given as an addition to breastmilk or artificial infant food, sold ready – made or home – made food for infants and young children over 6 months
 - 1.0.10 Distributor – distribution of artificial food (selling, advertising, propaganda and etc.) by natural and juridical person

Article 2. Legislation of Azerbaijan Republic on feeding of infants and young children

The legislation of Azerbaijan Republic on feeding of infants and young children (later on - children) consists of Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic, this Law, different normative and legal acts, and international agreements supported by Azerbaijan Republic.

Article 3. Basic principles of state policy on feeding of children's

3. Basic principles of state policy on feeding of children's are followings:
- 3.0.1 Preparation and implementation of state program on children's feeding;
 - 3.0.2 State guarantee for secure and adequate feeding of children's;
 - 3.0.3 Organization of propaganda and dissemination of information toward superiority of breast milk and protecting breastfeeding with the purpose of children's healthy feeding;
 - 3.0.4 State control on artificial children's products;
 - 3.0.5 For protection of Breastfeeding to support breastfeed mothers with financial, juridical and health-social beneficiaries

Chapter II

Article 4. Advocacy of breastfeeding

- 4.0 For protection and promotion of breastfeeding the pregnant women and mothers should be informed by medical facilities as follows:
- 4.1.1. Importance of breastfeeding and it's prevalence in comparison with artificial feeding;
 - 4.1.2. Necessity of breastfeeding and positive impact of feeding with mother's milk on child's harmonic growth;
 - 4.1.3. Creation of biological and emotional bases for child's and mother's health by breastfeeding;
 - 4.1.4. Protection from infections in case of breastfeeding and importance of timely assistance in primary medical-sanitation services

Article 5. Social protection of pregnant women and breastfeed mothers

- 5.1 Social protection of pregnant women and breastfeed mothers in terms of fair salary, rest and establishment of nutrition regime; implementation and dissemination of information/education/communication activities in regard to timely support of women in prevention, medical and sanitation measures, avoiding any type of raised stresses, and improving in patronage services.
- 5.2 Financial support and compassionate allowance for breastfeed mothers with children under 1 year.

Article 6. Nursing mother

- 6.1 Unavailability of breast-milk due to shortage of breast milk or by different reasons could assign nursing (donor) mother to breastfeed the child by corresponding state facility
- 6.2 The statement of the law under Part 5.2 also directed to the nursing mothers

Chapter III

7. Requirements for food formulas

- 7.1 Quality of products aimed at artificial feeding of infants shall meet state standards defined by certain executive power and requirements of International Commission on Food Standards.
- 7.2 Packing, marking, production, transportation and sale of artificial foods is carried out in compliance with appropriate standards and sanitary-hygienic norms.
- 7.3 Import and domestic production of artificial food at the territory of Azerbaijan Republic shall meet the following requirements:
 - 7.3.1 To be in Azerbaijani language in addition to translations in other languages;
 - 7.3.2 To show product's not excellence to breast milk;
 - 7.3.3 Not to use the expression of "analogous to breast milk or breastmilk substitute";
 - 7.3.4 In necessary cases to indicate the information about use only by doctor's advice;
 - 7.3.5 To indicate notes about proper food preparation and food secure
 - 7.3.6 To indicate the information on shelf life of artificial product
 - 7.3.7 To indicate the information on producers name and address
 - 7.3.8 To indicate energetic value in kilo-calories and in kilo-joules used per 100ml of ready-made product, and animal or vegetable origin of main ingredients in it's composition, and to show their quantities in decreasing proportion;
 - 7.3.9 To indicate information on chemical content of the product;
- 7.4 Graphics showing preparation ways of infant food can be used in etiquette.
- 7.5 Import of artificial product through any third country prohibited
- 7.6 Dissemination, sale and importation of artificial foods not meeting the requirements of this Law are prohibited.

Article 8. Requirements for certification and marking of artificial foods

Domestically produced product should receive an official certificate that could justify the requirements of the product quality, safety, sanitation, hygiene and normative measures

Article 9. Quality and safety control of artificial products

Quality and safety control of artificial products is carried out by appropriate executive powers within their authorities in compliance with the order defined in legislation.

Article 10. Requirements for advertising of artificial food

- 10.1 Advertising of artificial foods can be made only in scientific publications and in publications specialized in infants care problems. This information must be restricted to scientific and factual texts and not create an idea of equality of artificial feeding to breast-milk or excellence to it
- 10.2 Producers and distributors are allowed to educate medical staff through utilization of training materials, video, audio, scientific researches and articles. These kind of information should be kept within the framework of evidence based findings and exclude any type of breast-milk misunderstanding
- 10.3 Advertising of infants artificial food in any form is prohibited
- 10.4 Organization of sale-exhibition, special demonstration, wholesales and also short-term sale with low prices of infant's artificial food is prohibited.
- 10.5 To indicate the superiority of the breastfeeding while artificial food advertising

Chapter IV

Rights and obligations on medical staff, producers and distributors

Article 11. Rights and obligations of medical staff

- 11.1 Medical facilities have the right to receive cheap and free artificial foods as gifts for children deprived of parent's care at special establishments of closed type
- 11.2 Responsibilities of the medical staff as follows:
 - 11.2.1 To promote and advertise exclusive breastfeeding and dissemination of international experiences in this regard

- 11.2.2 To implement rooming in from the very beginning of the birth and initiation of immediate breastfeeding
- 11.2.3 The medical staff should to develop consultation with parents in case of needs of additional or artificial feeding
- 11.2.4 Not to give names and addresses of pregnant and breastfeeding women and also infants to producer and distributor of artificial foods.
- 11.2.5 Not to receive donations and gifts from physical and juridical persons with commercial interests in matters related to feeding of infants.
- 11.2.6 To implement health education activities toward healthy child nutrition

Article 12. Restrictions for producers and distributors

12.0 Restrictions for producers and distributors are the followings:

- 12.0.1 Not to finance scientific researches concerning nutrition of infants;
- 12.0.2 Not to sponsor participation of medical personnel in scientific and practical conferences and sessions, and continuous medical education experience, and activities of medical associations.
- 12.0.3 Not to give materials of advertising of promoting, information or scientific type aimed at infants to medical facilities.
- 12.0.4 Not to use things reflecting trademark, emblem, advertising motto of producer and distributor, etc.
- 12.0.5 Not to disseminate information regarding the artificial food among mothers as mentioned in Part 10.1 of the law

Chapter V

Final provisions

Article 13. Responsibility for violation of the Law

Physical and juridical persons guilty in violation of this Law are responsible in order defined in the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.

Article 14. The effective day of the law

This Law is effective as of the day of issue.