

# Infant formula and follow-on formula

In 2024, Food Standards Australia New Zealand finalised a review of Standard 2.9.1 - Infant formula products in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. The categorisation, labelling and composition of infant formula products have been revised to ensure products continue to be safe and suitable.

## INFANT FORMULA

### Use

- Formulated for healthy infants for use as the sole source of nutrition from birth to 12 months.

### Labelling

Infant formula products must:

- display the prescribed name 'Infant formula' and age information on the label.
- include the protein source in the name of the food.
- include a warning statement to follow instructions exactly, as incorrect preparation can make an infant very sick.
- include step by step instructions for preparation and use in words and pictures. Depending on the product, the instructions and scoops may vary. It is very important to follow the product specific instructions and use the scoop provided.
- include the nutrition information statement (NIS) in the prescribed format. The ingredient list and NIS are typically located on the back of the container.

### Composition

- The composition is as closely matched to breast milk as possible, providing essential macronutrients, vitamins and minerals required by an infant.
- Some ingredients (L-carnitine, inositol and choline) that were previously optional in infant formula have now been made mandatory.
- Some ingredients (such as bovine lactoferrin and 2'-fucosyllactose) are permitted to be voluntarily added but are not considered an essential part of the composition.

### Sale

- Infant formula is treated as a general commodity and is available for purchase at outlets such as supermarkets, service stations, pharmacies and department stores.



## FOLLOW-ON FORMULA

### Use

- Formulated for healthy infants aged 6-12 months for use as a part of complementary feeding.

### Labelling

Follow-on formula products must:

- display the prescribed name 'Follow-on formula' and age information on the label.
- include the protein source in the name of the food.
- include a warning statement to follow instructions exactly, as incorrect preparation can make an infant very sick.
- include step by step instructions for preparation and use in words and pictures. Depending on the product, the instructions and scoops may vary. It is very important to follow the product specific instructions and use the scoop provided.
- include the nutrition information statement (NIS) in the prescribed format. The ingredient list and NIS are typically located on the back of the container.

### Composition

- The composition replicates infant formula with some variations to accommodate for the particular requirements of this stage of development.
- Key compositional differences include variations to protein minimum, vitamin D maximum, calcium maximum, iron minimum, choline minimum, inositol minimum and L-carnitine maximum.
- Some ingredients are permitted to be voluntarily added but they are not considered an essential part of the composition.

### Sale

- Follow-on formula is treated as a general commodity and is available for purchase at places such as supermarkets, service stations, pharmacies and department stores.

