

Law of Georgia

Concerning the Prevention of Iodine, Other Microelements and Vitamins Deficiency Disorders

The goal of this law is creation of supportive environment for prevention of iodine, other microelements and vitamins deficiency disorders in Georgia.

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1. The Law of Georgia concerning prevention of iodine, other microelements and vitamins deficiency disorders.

The Law of Georgia concerning the prevention of iodine, other microelements and vitamins deficiency disorders is based on the Constitution of Georgia, International Agreements and consists of current law, law of Georgia “Concerning Health Care” and other legislative and normative acts.

Article 2. Explanation of terminology

The terminologies used in the current law have the following meaning:

A) Iodine, other microelements and vitamins deficiency disorders – pathological state of health reasoned by insufficiency of iodine, other microelements and vitamins in the human organism;

B) Prevention of iodine, other microelements and vitamins deficiency disorders – system of state activities targeting at prevention of iodine, other microelements and vitamins deficiency disorders;

C) Food fortification – enrichment of food products with microelements and vitamins for prevention of microelements and vitamins deficiency disorders;

D) Iodized Salt – Salt enriched (fortified) with iodine;

E) Fortificant – supplements (additive substances) used for food fortification;

F) Re-iodization – repeated iodization of iodized salt or other fortified food.

Article 3. Main provisions for prevention of iodine, other microelements and vitamins deficiency disorders

The main provisions for prevention of iodine, other microelements and vitamins deficiency disorders are the following:

A) Elaboration of National Policy on Food Fortification and promotion of implementation of respective programmes;

B) Elaboration of standards of import, production and realization of iodized salt and other fortified food products in Georgia;

C) Strengthening of the State supervision and inter-agency coordination over the import, production and realization of iodized salt and other fortified food products in Georgia;

D) Determination of roles and responsibilities of governmental institutions entities, physical persons and juridical entities for ensuring that the standards of import, production and realization of iodized salt and other fortified food in Georgia are enforced;

E) Promoting participation of the population, society and international organizations in implementation of the National Food Fortification Policy.

Chapter II

Standards of Import, Production and Realization of Iodized Salt and other Fortified Food Products in Georgia

Article 4. Requirements to iodized salt and other fortified food products

1. Iodized salt and other fortified food (imported to Georgia or produced locally) should be compliant to the national standards.

2. The import and realization of non-iodized salt is banned in Georgia except for conditions (circumstances) defined by point 1 of article 5 of this law.

3. Salt for human and animal consumption should be iodized in accordance to the national standards.

Article 6. Import and realization of non-iodized salt to Georgia

1. Import and realization of non-iodized salt to Georgia is permitted for:

A) Medical purposes;

B) Technical and non-food production purposes.

2. The import of non-iodized salt to Georgia for medical purposes is permitted only on the basis of license issued by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

3. Non-iodized salt for medical purposes can be realized only through pharmacy network.

Article 6. Certification and Licensing of iodized salt and other fortified food products

1. Import of iodized salt and other fortified food products without obligatory certificate and production without the license is prohibited.

2. During the import of iodized salt and other fortified food products to Georgia the Customs Department along with the customs declaration should be provided by the certificate of conformity.

3. Licensing of iodized salt and other fortified food products is led by the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, while obligatory certification is processed by the Legal Person of Public Law – National Agency of Standardization, Metrology and Certification in accordance with the rule of law.

Article 7. Requirements for sorting, packaging, marking, transportation and storage of iodized salt and other fortified food products

Sorting, packaging, marking, transportation and storage of iodized salt and other fortified food products should meet the requirements of the national standards.

Article 8. Safety and quality assurance of iodized salt and other fortified food products

1. Physical persons and juridical entities importing, producing and selling iodized salt and other fortified food products are responsible to the customers for safe and quality assurance of the iodized salt and other fortified food products in compliance with the national standards.

2. The population is provided with the information concerning certification of iodized salt and other fortified food products in accordance with the rule defined by the law “Concerning the Protection of the Consumer’s Rights”.

3. Realization of expired iodized salt and other fortified food products is prohibited and the products should be withdrawn from the realization network.

Chapter III

Control

Article 9. Control over the compliance of the iodized salt and other fortified products with national standards

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia, within the frame of their competence, control the compliance of iodized salt and other fortified food products with the national standards.

Chapter IV

Responsibilities of Physical Persons and Juridical Entities for Violation of the Law

Article 10. Responsibilities for violation of the law

The level of responsibility for violation of this law is prescribed by the rule of law of Georgia.

Chapter V

Transitional Provisions

Article 11. Activities for putting this law into force

1. The following legal acts should be elaborated within 3 months after the law comes into force:

A) Decree of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia “Concerning the list of food products due to fortification”;

B) Decree of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia “Concerning the requirements for import and realization of non-iodized salt for medical purposes”;

C) Joint Decree of the Minister of Economy, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources and Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia “Concerning the rule for processing, re-iodization, usage for technical purposes and destruction of expired iodized salt and other fortified food products”;

D) Joint Decree of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture “Concerning the content of fortificants and methods of fortification for iodized salt and other fortified food products”.

2. Request the Legal Person of Public Law – National Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Certification to elaborate and approve the national standards of sorting, packaging, marking and transportation of iodized salt for human and animal consumption.

3. With reference to the Decree of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia “Concerning the list of food products due to fortification” request the legal person of Public Law - National Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Certification to elaborate and approve the national standard for food products due to fortification (imported to Georgia or produced locally).

Chapter VI

Final Provision

Article 12. Law in force

The current law to be in force after 6 months since its publication

President of Georgia

Mickeil Saakashvili

Tbilisi,

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