

ISDI Secretariat  
50, rue de l'Association  
1000 Brussels, BELGIUM



Tel : + 32 2 209 11 43  
Fax: + 32 2 219 73 42  
E-mail: secretariat@isdi.org

## International Special Dietary Foods Industries

23 April 2010

### **ISDI POSITION PROPOSED DRAFT MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR MELAMINE IN FOOD AND FEED (N13-2009)**

CX/CF 10/4/5

The International Special Dietary Foods Industries (ISDI) represents at Codex Alimentarius the manufacturers of special dietary foods and hence is highly involved and interested in contributing to any work that will relate to nutrition products.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF), it was agreed that an electronic working group led by Canada would develop proposed draft maximum levels for melamine in food and feed to be discussed at the 4<sup>th</sup> session (see Alinorm 09/32/26 par. 151). In this context, ISDI would like to offer the following comments:

#### **SUMMARY**

Consistent with the report from the 2008 WHO Expert meeting, ISDI believes melamine limits of 1 part per million (ppm) in infant formula as fed and 2.5 ppm in other foods would provide a sufficient margin of safety for dietary exposure relative to the WHO TDI.

## **RATIONALE**

The World Health Organization (WHO), in an expert meeting held in December 2008, defined a tolerable daily intake (TDI) for melamine of 0.2 mg per kg of body weight per day, applicable to the total population, including infants.

Many countries have set safety limits for melamine in foods, usually 1 part per million (ppm) for infant formula and 2.5 ppm for other foods. In the report of its December 2008 meeting the WHO stated these limits “would provide a sufficient margin of safety for dietary exposure relative to the TDI.”<sup>1</sup>

In June 2007, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) established a TDI of 0.5 mg per kg body weight per day for the total of melamine and its analogues (ammeline, ammelide, cyanuric acid), and confirmed its opinion in September 2008. However, based on updated toxicological data, in April 2010 EFSA lowered its TDI to 0.2 mg per kg body weight per day, which is in line with the WHO TDI.

In November 2008 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) set a safe limit for melamine or cyanuric acid in infant formula of 1 ppm. Following the December 2008 WHO meeting, Health Canada adopted the WHO TDI, which resulted in a safe limit of 0.5 ppm for infant formula.

In March 2009, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of CCCF, the Committee agreed to develop maximum levels for melamine in food and feed.