

*Regulation of Health Food  
in Taiwan*

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. In Taiwan, conventional food, health food and medicine are all regulated by law. Products in tablet and capsule forms are classified as “food”, “health food” or “medicine” according to their functions.
2. In Taiwan, the Health Food Control Act was passed on 3 February 1999 and came into effect on 3 August the same year. In the Act, health food is defined as “food with specific nutrient or health maintenance effects which is especially labelled or advertised, and do not aim at treating or remedying human diseases”. “Health maintenance effects” are effects recognized by the Department of Health as those which promote the health of citizens or reduce the risk of serious illnesses. They are not therapeutic such as treating or remedying human diseases. Health food also includes food in tablet, capsule, powder or oral liquid forms.
3. According to the Health Food Control Act, health maintenance claims have to be approved by the Department of Health. So far, the Department of Health has approved seven such claims, namely: regulation of blood lipid, promotion of gastrointestinal functions, alleviation of osteoporosis, maintenance of dental health, regulation of the immune system, regulation of blood sugar level and protection of the liver.
4. Health food sold in Taiwan must contain entities with definite health maintenance effects which must be assessed and approved by the Department of Health. Health food must also comply with food safety standards.
5. The Department of Health of the Executive Yuan is the competent authority at the central level, and the Health Department of the provincial/county/municipal government is the local regulatory authority. Manufacturers and importers of health food must first submit an application to the Department of Health or its commissioned body for inspection and registration. Health food manufactured in Taiwan has to comply with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Imported health food has to conform to the GMP of the country of origin. Successful applicant will be issued a permit valid for five years. Application for renewal has to be filed within three months prior to the expiry of the permit.
6. The Health Food Control Act has been implemented for one year, during which the Department of Health has approved six health food products. Among them, four claim to have the health maintenance effect of “regulating blood lipid”, while the other two respectively claim to have the effects of “regulating the immune system” and “promoting gastrointestinal functions”. The Department of Health also oversees local Health Departments in inspecting labels and advertisements of products available for sale in the market. A total of 65 food products were found to have violated the Health Food Control Act over the past year.
7. The Legislative Yuan of Taiwan is now deliberating on the Health Food Control Amendment Bill which includes amendments on the definition of health food and details of implementation. As the Health Food Control Act has only been enforced since 1999, whether the Act can fully and successfully safeguard the health of citizens as well as protect the safety and interests of consumers is yet to be observed.

# REGULATION OF HEALTH FOOD IN TAIWAN

## PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

### 1. Background

1.1 In March 2000, the Panel on Health Services requested the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat to conduct a research on the regulation of health food in overseas places.

### 2. Scope of the Research

2.1 The objective of this research is to study the regulation of health food in Australia, Taiwan, the United States and Hong Kong. This includes differentiation of health food from conventional food and medicine, the relevant regulation and its enforcement, and the channel through which health food is marketed. This study mainly discusses food products sold in the form of tablets or capsules.

2.2 This research paper discusses the regulation of health food in Taiwan. Taiwan is chosen because the legislation governing the manufacturing, importation and selling of health food is more comprehensive than those of other neighbouring Asian countries.<sup>1</sup>

2.3 This research paper forms part of the series of reports discussing the regulation of health food. There are four separate research reports on this subject.

### 3. Methodology

3.1 The methods used in this study involve a combination of information collection, literature review and analysis. Information for this research report is obtained from the Internet and e-mails from the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Budget, Accounting and Statistics of the Executive Yuan.

3.2 In the first half of 2000, the average exchange rate between Taiwan Dollar (NT\$) and Hong Kong Dollar (HK\$) was NT\$1 = HK\$0.25.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In Japan, there are over 1 000 types of health food, but only 182 food products are approved by the Ministry of Health and Welfare to be sold as Foods for Specified Health Use. These are all fresh food or processed conventional, such as milk products. Foods in tablet or capsule forms are excluded.

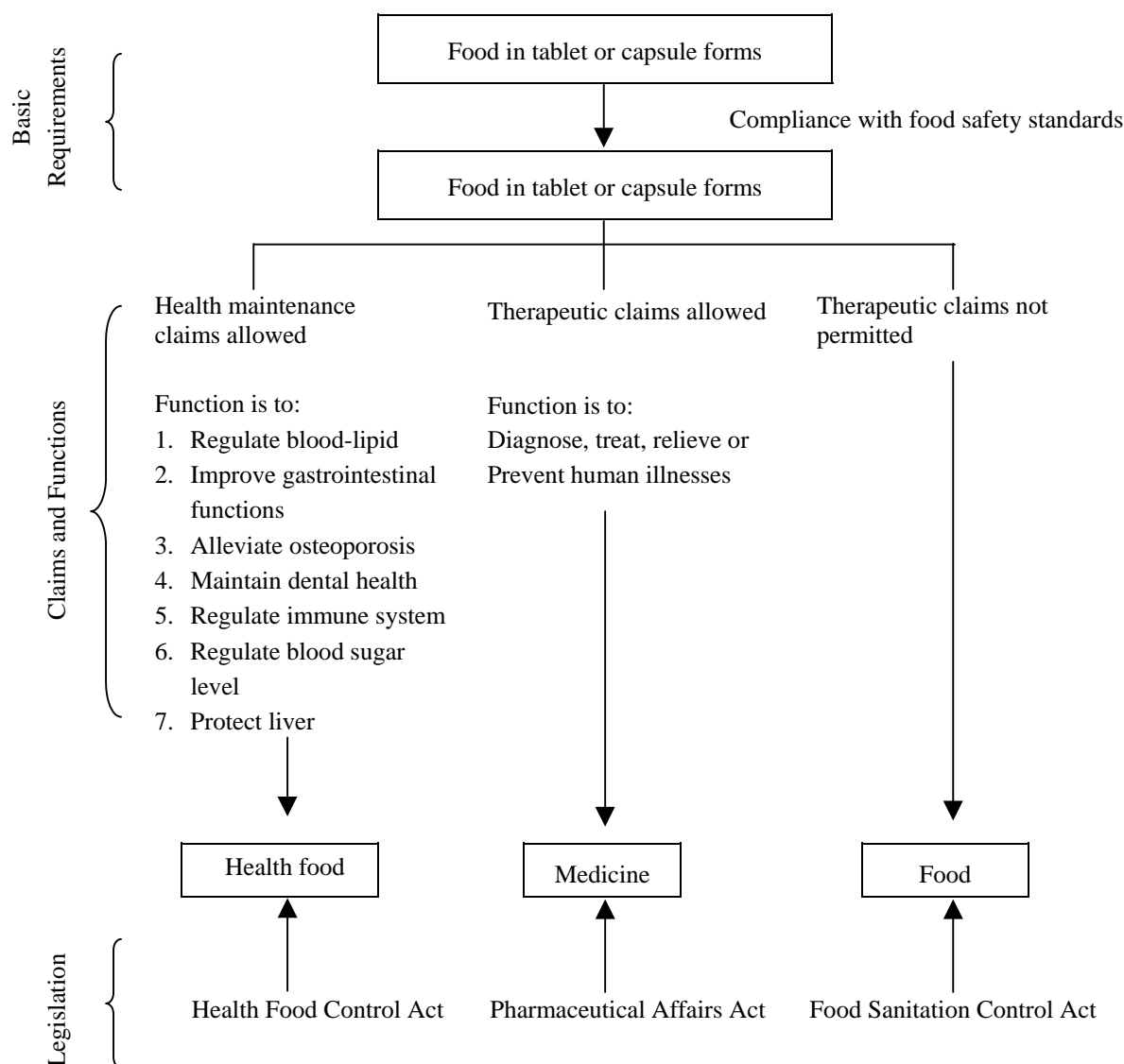
<sup>2</sup> Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR, *Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics*, May 2000, Table 7.12.

## PART 2 - DIFFERENTIATION OF HEALTH FOOD FROM CONVENTIONAL FOOD AND MEDICINE

### 4. Legislation Governing the Three Types of Products in Taiwan

4.1 In Taiwan, conventional food, health food and medicine are all regulated by law. Products in tablet and capsule forms are classified as “food”, “health food” or “medicine” according to their functions. The flow chart in Diagram 1 shows how the three types of products are differentiated.

**Diagram 1 - How to Differentiate of Food, Medicine and Health Food in Tablet and Capsule Forms**



## 5. Definition of Food

5.1 According to Article 2 of Taiwan's Food Sanitation Control Act, food refers to "goods provided to people for eating, drinking or chewing, and the raw materials of such goods". The form of food is not only confined to conventional foodstuff such as vegetables, fruit and meat which are consumed daily, but also includes processed food in tablet, capsule, powder or oral liquid forms.

## 6. Definition of Medicine

6.1 According to Article 6 of Taiwan's Pharmaceutical Affairs Act, medicine refers to one of the following therapeutic raw materials or preparations<sup>3</sup>:

- (a) medicines listed in Pharmacopoeia of China or in pharmacopoeias of other countries recognized by DOH, in established national formularies or in other respective supplementary works;
- (b) medicines used to diagnose, treat, relieve or prevent human illnesses;
- (c) other medicines having an impact on the human physiological structure and functions; or
- (d) any therapeutic raw materials or preparations used in preparing the three kinds of medicine listed above.

Therapeutic raw materials or preparations which fail to meet the above criteria are not regarded as medicine.

## 7. Definition of Health Food

7.1 At present, the Health Food Control Act defines health food as "food with specific nutrient or health maintenance effects which is especially labelled or advertised, and do not aim at treating or remedying human diseases". "Health maintenance effects" are effects recognized by DOH which promote the health of citizens or reduce the risk of serious illnesses. They are not therapeutic effects such as treating or remedying human diseases. Health food also includes food in tablet, capsule, powder or oral liquid forms.

7.2 Some products, such as vitamin pills, shark extract pills, ginseng essence and royal jelly, can only be sold as "food" but not as "health food" because their health maintenance claims have yet to be approved by DOH. Such food products are regulated by the Food Sanitation Control Act instead of the Health Food Control Act.

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<sup>3</sup> Preparations refer to the processing of therapeutic raw materials into medicine of a definite form and dosage. Preparations can be classified as medicine prescribed by physicians; medicine administered under the direction of physicians, pharmacists or dispensers; patent medicine and set prescriptions.

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## **8. Health Maintenance Claims**

8.1 According to the Health Food Control Act, health maintenance effects have to be recognized by DOH. So far, DOH has given recognition to seven such effects, namely:

- (a) regulation of blood lipid;
- (b) promotion of gastrointestinal functions;
- (c) alleviation of osteoporosis;
- (d) maintenance of dental health;
- (e) regulation of the immune system;
- (f) regulation of blood sugar level; and
- (g) protection of the liver.

8.2 Only foods with the above approved health maintenance effects are regulated by the Health Food Control Act. Claims for health maintenance effects have to be expressed in ways approved by DOH. For example, food product which only lowers the serum triglyceride level cannot make a wider claim of being capable of lowering blood lipid level, so as to avoid misleading the public to believe that it can also lower the level of other fats, such as serum cholesterol.

8.3 Foods claiming to have health maintenance effects other than those seven effects listed above are regulated by the Food Sanitation Control Act. The labelling and advertisement of such food cannot contain any therapeutic claims. DOH has compiled for public information a list of food advertisements containing false or exaggerated presentations or carrying therapeutic claims. This list is at Appendix I.

### **PART 3 - THE HEALTH FOOD MARKET IN TAIWAN**

#### **9. An Overview of the Population and Economic Situation of Taiwan**

9.1 In 1999, Taiwan had a total population of about 22 million. The labour force was 9.76 million, representing 44% of the total population. The Gross National Product was NT\$9,435.9 billion (HK\$2,359 billion), with a per capita GNP of about NT\$430,000 (HK\$108,000).

#### **10. The Health Food Market in Taiwan**

10.1 The most updated data available to the Division was those of 1998. As the Health Food Control Act was not yet introduced in 1998, there was legally no health food at that time other than nutrient food. Nutrient food may not be the same as health food, which is now regulated by legislation. Information and data on the nutrient food market are at Appendix II for reference only.

## **PART 4 - LEGISLATION REGULATING HEALTH FOOD**

### **11. The Introduction of the Health Food Control Act**

11.1 In Taiwan, the Health Food Control Act was passed on 3 February 1999 and came into effect on 3 August the same year. The scope of the Act includes legislative intent, definition of health food, qualifying requirements for health food, competent authorities regulating health food, requirements on the manufacture and importation of health food, safety and sanitation control, labelling and advertisement, inspection and sanction, awards for reporting and detecting non-compliance cases, as well as penal provisions.

#### Legislative Intent

11.2 The legislation aims at enhancing the regulation and monitoring of matters relating to health food, so as to protect the health of the citizens and safeguard the safety, rights and interests of consumers<sup>4</sup>.

#### Definition of Health Food

11.3 Health food refers to food with specific health maintenance effects which is specially labelled or advertised, food which aims at treating or remedying human diseases is not regarded as health food.

#### Qualifying Requirements for Health Food

11.4 Health food sold in Taiwan must contain entities with definite health maintenance effects and which must be assessed and approved by DOH. Health food must also comply with food safety standards.

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<sup>4</sup> Article 1, Health Food Control Act

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### *Health Maintenance Effects*

11.5 Health food must contain entities with definite health maintenance effects, the reasonable intake of which must be substantiated by scientific evidence. If existing technology cannot determine those entities with valid health maintenance effects, then a list of the ingredients furnishing such effects, together with supporting literature, have to be provided to DOH for assessment and approval.

### *Food Safety Standards*

11.6 In order to comply with food safety standards, health food has to be duly supported by academic principles or subject to scientific tests to prove that the consumption of which has no harm on human beings.

### Competent Authorities Regulating Health Food

11.7 The Department of Health of the Executive Yuan is the competent authority at the central level, and the Health Department of the provincial/county/municipal government is the local regulatory authority.

### Requirements on the Manufacture and Importation of Health Food

11.8 No health food shall be manufactured or imported unless the manufacturers and importers concerned have first submitted an application to DOH or its commissioned body for inspection and registration. The applicant must provide the relevant authorities with the ingredients, specifications, functions and effects of the health food, together with a summary of the manufacturing process, inspection standards and methods, other relevant data and documentation, as well as the food label and sample. Upon paying the certification fee and checking/examination fee, the successful applicant will be issued a permit by DOH. The permit is valid for five years. Application for renewal has to be filed within three months prior to the expiry of the term. The term of each renewal cannot exceed five years<sup>5</sup>.

### Safety and Sanitation Control of Health Food

11.9 Health food manufactured in Taiwan has to comply with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Imported health food has to conform to the GMP of the country of origin.

11.10 Health food, as well as its containers and packaging, has to meet the sanitation standards prescribed by DOH.

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<sup>5</sup> Article 7 and 8, Health Food Control Amendment Bill

### Labelling and Advertisement of Health Food

11.11 The following information shall be conspicuously displayed on the containers, packaging or specifications of health food in Chinese and in commonly used symbols:

- (a) product name;
- (b) name, weight or volume of the contents; separate labelling is required if the health food is a mixture of two or more ingredients;
- (c) name of the food additives<sup>6</sup>;
- (d) expiry date, methods and conditions of preservation;
- (e) name and address of the manufacturer, importer has to supply the name and address of the responsible local business operator;
- (f) approved health maintenance effects;
- (g) permit number, legend of “health food” and standard logo;
- (h) dosage, important message on the consumption of the health food and other necessary warnings;
- (i) nutrient composition and their content; and
- (j) other material facts designated by DOH by way of public notice<sup>7</sup>.

11.12 The labelling and advertisement of health food shall not contain information which is false, exaggerated and beyond the content approved by DOH. Claims of therapeutic effects<sup>8</sup> are not allowed. Examples of cases in contravention of the Health Food Control Act are listed at Appendix III.

11.13 Any food which does not meet the requirements of the Health Food Control Act cannot be labelled or advertised as health food or claim to have health maintenance effects. Any food labelled or advertised as food with specific health maintenance effects is governed by the Health Food Control Act<sup>9</sup>. The media is not allowed to publish or broadcast any food which has not been granted a permit as “health food”.

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<sup>6</sup> According to Article 3, the Food Sanitation Control Act, food additives refer to materials that are added to or brought into contact with foods in the course of manufacturing, processing, preparation, packaging, transportation and storage of foods for the purpose of colouring, seasoning, preserving, bleaching, emulsifying, flavouring, stabilizing quality, enhancing fermentation, increasing viscosity, enriching nutritional value, preventing oxidation or otherwise.

<sup>7</sup> Article 13, Health Food Control Amendment Bill.

<sup>8</sup> Article 14, Health Food Control Amendment Bill.

<sup>9</sup> Article 6, Health Food Control Amendment Bill.

### Inspection and Sanction of Health Food

11.14 If there is scientific research to question the effects, ingredient composition, formula or method of production of a health food approved by DOH, the Department will reexamine that product. If the product does not pass the re-examination, DOH will request the manufacturer concerned to make improvements within a prescribed period. If no improvements are made within the time limit, the permit may be revoked<sup>10</sup>.

11.15 Furthermore, the Health Department will regularly inspect the premises, facilities and business of health food operators, conduct random testing and detain records<sup>11</sup>. Any health food suspected to be detrimental to human health will be placed in a sealed container for further actions pending laboratory report.

11.16 The Health Department will handle problematic health food in the following ways:

- (a) Health food which endangers human health will be confiscated and destroyed.
- (b) Health food which is not manufactured or imported in accordance with GMP and/or fail to meet the sanitation standards prescribed by DOH will be confiscated and destroyed. If, after disinfection or adoption of appropriate safety measures, the product can still be consumed or consumable after reconditioning, the authority concerned shall notify the manufacturer or importer to take measures such as disinfection, reconditioning or enforcement of safety measures within a prescribed period; otherwise the food will be confiscated and destroyed.
- (c) Health food which is not labelled in accordance with the provisions of the Health Food Control Act will be recalled for rectification within a prescribed period; if no actions are taken, the food will be confiscated and destroyed.
- (d) Food labelled or advertised as health food or claim to have health maintenance effects without official approval will be confiscated and destroyed.
- (e) The Health Department will publicize information on operators engaging in manufacturing, preparing, processing, selling, importing or exporting problematic health food, such information includes the name and address of the company concerned, the name of the person(s) responsible, the product name and details of the offence<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> Article 9, Health Food Control Amendment Bill.

<sup>11</sup> Article 16, Health Food Control Amendment Bill.

<sup>12</sup> Article 19, Health Food Control Amendment Bill.

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1.17 Health food manufacturers or importers have to immediately notify their downstream businesses if any problems occur and are required by the law to recall all products from the market as well as those kept in stock within a prescribed period .

#### Awards for Reporting and Detecting Cases in Contravention of the Health Food Control Act

11.18 Anyone who reports cases in contravention of the Health Food Control Act will be awarded a sum equivalent to 5% of the amount of fine imposed. The reward is paid out of the budget of the Health Department concerned. If the case is reported jointly by more than two persons, the reward will be shared among them. If the case is reported separately by more than two persons, the reward will be awarded to the first person who made the report. If it is not possible to identify the first person who made the report, the reward will be shared equally.

11.19 Anyone who detects cases in contravention of the Health Food Control Act should be appropriately awarded by the Health Department concerned through administrative means<sup>13</sup>.

#### Penal Provisions

11.20 Any person who manufactures, imports, labels or advertises health food not approved by DOH may be fined up to NT\$1,000,000 (HK\$250,000) and his business or factory licence may be revoked. Those who commit the offence again within a year may be imprisoned for not more than three years, fined up to NT\$1,000,000 (HK\$250,000), and his business/factory licence may be revoked. Furthermore, any person who publishes labels or broadcasts advertisements containing false or exaggerated information or carrying therapeutic claims, refuses to provide the Health Department with relevant information or impedes the provision of such information will also be punished. For details of the penal provisions, please refer to Appendix III.

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<sup>13</sup> Rules No. 4 and 6, Rewards for Reporting and Detecting Cases in contravention of the Health Food Control Act.

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## **PART 5 - CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE SALE OF HEALTH FOOD**

### **12. Procedures for Permit Application**

12.1 Manufacturers or importers of health food shall provide the following documents and information to DOH for examination and registration:

- (a) the application form;
- (b) a list of the ingredients, their composition and specified content;
- (c) an assessment report on product safety;
- (d) an assessment report on the health maintenance effects of the product;
- (e) a verification report on the ingredients furnishing health maintenance effects and the method of testing;
- (f) a report on the stability of the health maintenance effects;
- (g) a summary of the manufacturing process;
- (h) supporting documentation on GMP;
- (i) specifications on product sanitation and the inspection report;
- (j) an analysis report on the general nutrient content;
- (k) relevant research reports and literature;
- (l) packaging, labelling and specifications of the product;
- (m) a photocopy of the business licence held by the applicant; and
- (n) an intact sample of the product and the processing fee.

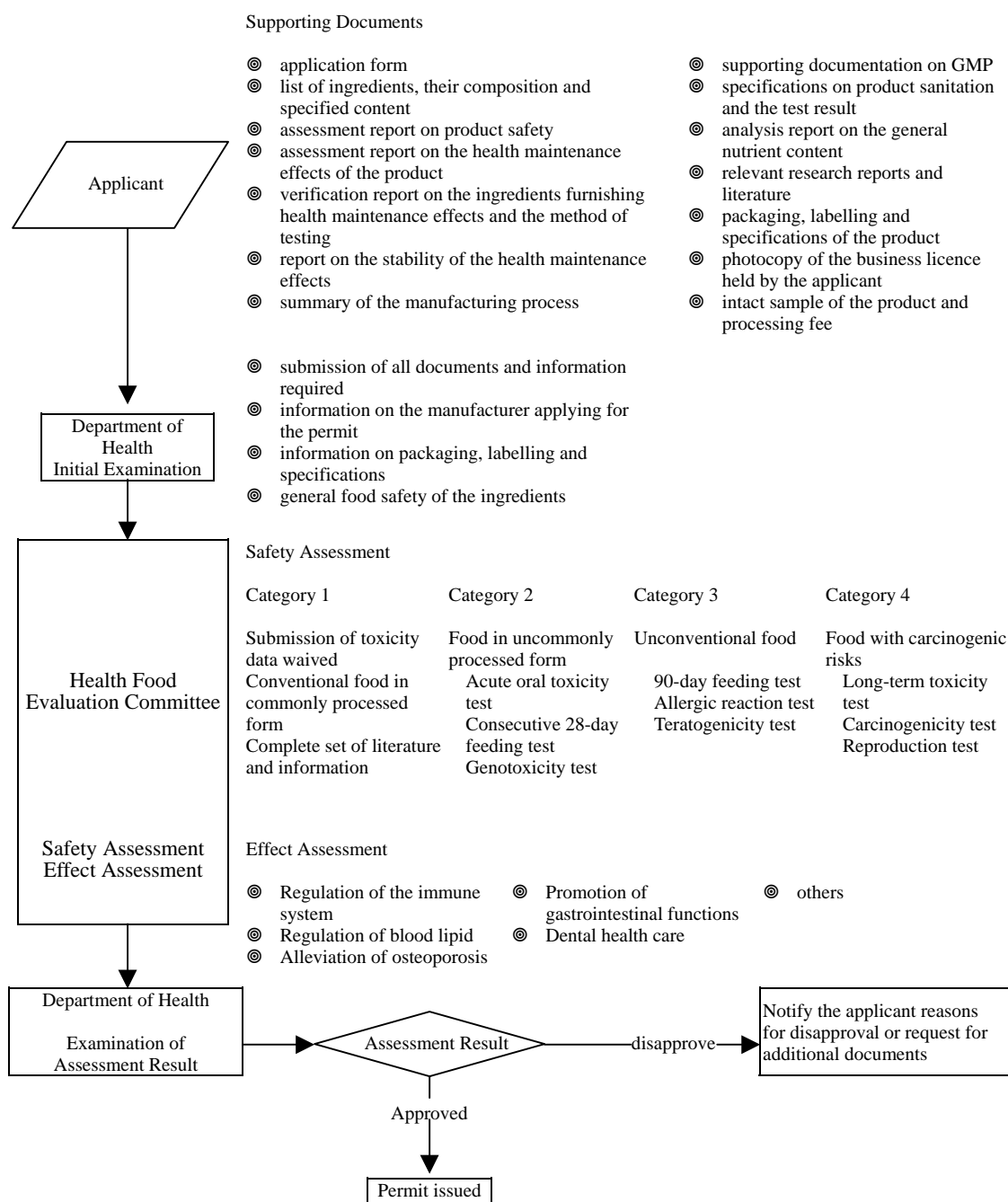
12.2 DOH will conduct an initial assessment upon receiving the application and documents. If the basic requirements are met, the application will be forwarded to the Health Food Evaluation Committee (HFEC) under DOH for further examination, to ascertain, with reference to the food safety assessment report and health maintenance assessment report submitted by the applicant, that the product is safe for consumption and its health maintenance effect is valid. Finally, DOH will, base on the advice of HFEC, conduct an overall assessment on whether or not to approve the application. Successful applicants will be granted a permit valid for five years, to be renewed three months prior to the expiry of the term.



### 13. Procedures for Permit Approval

13.1 Diagram 2 shows the procedure for approving health food permits. Manufacturers or importers of health products have to pay a processing fee of NT\$2,000 (about HK\$500) when submitting their applications.

**Diagram 1 - Flow Chart on Handling of Applications for Health Food Permit**



Note: Other effects include assessments on the regulation of blood sugar level and the protection of the liver.

### Safety Assessment

13.2 Tests on product safety have to be conducted in accordance with the “Methods Of Safety Assessments of Health Food” promulgated by DOH. Data of toxicity tests specified by the above methods have to be submitted.

13.3 There are four categories of safety assessments and six types of toxicity tests. The main concerns are the safety of long term consumption and the manufacturing and processing procedure of health food. Therefore, factors to be considered include the intended purpose of the health food, its method of consumption, the method and procedure of food manufacturing and processing, the form of the final product and the amount to be consumed. Appendix V sets out the classification of safety assessments and toxicity tests.

### Assessment of Health Maintenance Effects

13.4 The health maintenance effects of a product must conform to the seven health maintenance effects approved by DOH. The main points of the assessment reports are as follows:

- (a) the health maintenance effects must be substantiated by scientific studies or proven by academic principles to be harmless and carry definite and steady health maintenance effects<sup>14</sup>;
- (b) the reasonable intake of the product must be supported by scientific evidence;
- (c) the assessment of the health maintenance effects must be conducted in accordance with the “Methods of Assessing the Health Maintenance Effects of Health Food” promulgated by DOH. For studies that are not conducted in accordance with the promulgated methods, scientific evidence on the study method has to be submitted for assessment of the appropriateness of the method<sup>15</sup>.

### Fees

13.5 Manufacturers or importers of a health product are responsible for arranging the above two types of assessments and preparing proper assessment reports. The two types of assessments involve different examination items, specified in law. The fees for various items range from NT\$300 (about HK\$75) to NT\$3,000 (about HK\$750). Manufacturers or importers must complete all the examination items required for the health maintenance effects of the product concerned.

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<sup>14</sup> The steadiness of the health maintenance effects is the basis for evaluating the effective period of a health maintenance product.

<sup>15</sup> Clause 11, Methods of Applying for a Health Food Permit

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#### **14. Approval for Importation of Food in Tablet or Capsule Forms**

14.1 Since February 1995, DOH has formulated the “Code of Practice for Examining and Registering Imported Food in Tablet or Capsule Forms”. Importers of food in tablet or capsule forms are required to apply to DOH for a permit, so as to ensure that they thoroughly understand and are willing to comply with the requirements on the composition, labelling and advertisement of health food stipulated in the Food Sanitation Control Act, as well as in the relevant provisions under the Health Food Control Act and the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act. Importers should also ensure that the product name, trade mark, pattern, label, instruction for use, packaging, marking, etc are not modelled on, passing off as or alluding to any other registered trade marks. People acting in contravention of the provisions have to assume all legal responsibilities and accept DOH’s de-registration and assessment of the product concerned.

## **PART 6 - MONITORING OF HEALTH FOOD**

### **15. Sales Outlet of Health Food**

15.1 Consumers can buy health food in pharmacies chartered under the National Health Insurance Programme, chain pharmacies<sup>16</sup>, and supermarkets, as well as from approved direct sale companies.

### **16. Complaints Mechanism**

16.1 Consumers who suspect that they have purchased problematic products can lodge complaints to the Consumer Protection Association of the Executive Yuan, the Fair Trade Commission of the Executive Yuan, the Republic of China Consumer Cultural and Educational Foundation or the local Health Department.

### **17. Enforcement of the Health Food Control Act**

17.1 The original legislative intent of the Health Food Control Act was to regulate all products claiming to have health maintenance effects or furnishing specific nutrients in their labels or advertisements. However, when the Health Food Control Act was implemented, DOH announced that only products claiming the seven health maintenance effects approved by DOH would be regulated by the Health Food Control Act; products claiming other health maintenance effects would still be regulated by the Food Sanitation Control Act. In other words, products with labels or advertisements claiming health maintenance effects other than those seven approved effects will only be treated as “food” by DOH. In Taiwan, products such as Linzhi (*Ganoderma lucidum*), ginseng and royal jelly, whether they are in capsule, tablet, powder or oral liquid forms, all fall outside the scope of the Health Food Control Act and are only regulated by the Food Sanitation Control Act.

### **18. Non-compliance and Penalties**

18.1 During the first year upon the implementation of the Health Food Control Act, DOH has approved six health food products. Among them, four claim to have the health maintenance effect of “regulating blood lipid”, while the other two respectively claim to have the effects of “regulating the immune system” and “promoting gastrointestinal functions”. Appendix IV sets out the six health food products approved by DOH and their health maintenance effects.

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<sup>16</sup> An example is Watson’s the Chemist.

18.2 DOH also oversees local Health Departments in inspecting labels and advertisements of products available for sale in the market. A total of 65 products were found to have breached the law over the past year. Statistics on cases referred to the authorities for legal action under the Health Food Control Act is listed in Table 1. Apart from the 32 cases of which prosecution has not yet been instituted, no legal proceedings would be taken against 14 cases. Among the 19 cases prosecuted, four cases were found guilty and the convicts were all sentenced to three months imprisonment. Of the non-compliance cases, 47 were related to health maintenance claims.

**Table 1 - Statistics on Cases in contravention of the Health Food Control Act and Referred to the Authorities for Legal Action**

Decisions	Details of non-compliance			
	Labelled as health food	Claimed to have health maintenance effects	Claimed to be health food and have health maintenance effects	Total
Being handled (referred to the authorities but prosecution not yet instituted)	8	24	0	32
Prosecution abandoned	4	9	1	14
Prosecution instituted and pending court decision	2	8	3	13
Guilty (sentence to three months imprisonment in all cases)	0	4	0	4
Not guilty	0	2	0	2
Total	14	47	4	65

Source: Six Health Food Products Examined and Approved by the Department of Health as Having Health Maintenance Effects, Bureau of Food Sanitation, 2 August 2000

18.3 DOH also publicizes non-compliance cases detected and handled by county/city Health Department each month. Appendix VII lists non-compliance cases handled by county/city Health Department in July 2000. Most of the cases are related to violation of the provisions on labelling and advertisement.

18.4 In the first seven months of 2000, the highest fine imposed was NT\$230,000 (HK\$58,000).

## **PART 7 - ANALYSIS**

### **19. Scope of the Existing Regulation**

19.1 As the Health Food Control Act only regulates foods involving seven types of health maintenance effects, foods claiming other effects are not subject to proper regulation. Since the implementation of the Health Food Control Act, six health food products have been approved by DOH. All other self-proclaimed health maintenance foods available for sale in the market are neither subject to legal regulation nor recognized as health food by DOH.

### **20. Handling of Non-compliant Food Products**

20.1 Although the Health Department has put in incessant efforts to investigate cases involving non-compliant food products and impose punishment, the number of cases handled each month is very small. Moreover, in view of the huge size of the health food market in Taiwan, it is in fact impossible to carry out a full scale investigation. As mentioned above, only 65 health food products were found by DOH to be non-compliant over the past year.

### **21. Effectiveness of the Existing Regulation**

21.1 The Legislative Yuan of Taiwan is now deliberating on the Health Food Control Amendment Bill which includes amendments on the definition of health food and details of implementation. As the Health Food Control Act has only been enforced since 1999, whether the Act can fully and successfully safeguard the health of the citizens as well as the safety and interests of consumers is yet to be observed.

## Appendix I

## List of Food Advertisements or Labels Containing False and Exaggerated Wordings or Carrying Therapeutic Claims

Claiming Therapeutic effects	Sample Phases
Claim to have the effects of preventing, remedying, relieving, diagnosing or treating certain diseases or physiological conditions	Treatment of myopia. Restore eyesight. Treatment and rectification of calcium deficiency and degeneration of joints. Invigorate the stomach and improve intestinal movement. Prevent constipation. Induce diuresis. Relieve allergic symptoms. Strengthen the <i>yang</i> . Replenish essence of life. Relieve allergic dermatitis. Treat insomnia. Prevent anemia. Lower blood pressure. Eliminate waste in blood. Cleanse blood. Regulate endocrine. Guard against premature menopause.
Claim to have the effects of reducing or lowering pathogenic factors in the body	Remove toxic substances from the liver. Lower liver fat. Inhibit the rise of blood sugar concentration.
Claim to have effects on certain diseases and on the syndrome or symptom of certain diseases	Relieve menopausal disturbances. Reduce excessive thirst. Treat indigestion. Reduce stomach gas. Remove pathogenic fire in the liver. Prevent bad breath. Alleviate sore throat. Expel phlegm and relieve asthma. Alleviate swelling and pain. Eliminate arrhythmia. Detoxification.
Claim related to efficacy of Chinese medicine	Invigorate the kidney. Warm the kidney (activate vital energy). Nourish the kidney. Reinforce the kidney. Invigorate the spleen. Strengthen the spleen. Benefit the spleen. Warm the spleen. Regulate the stomach. Nourish the stomach. Invigorate the stomach. Reinforce the stomach. Warm the stomach (strengthen the middle-jiao). Regurgitation. Nourish the heart. Clear heart-fire. Invigorate the heart. Calm the heart. Purge the sthenic heart-energy. Relieve palpitation. Strengthen the heart. Clear lung-heat. Release stagnated lung energy. Moisten the lung. Impair the lung. Warm the lung (eliminate phlegm). Invigorate the lung. Purge the sthenic lung-energy. Disperse the stagnated liver-energy. Nourish the liver. Purge the sthenic liver-energy. Calm the liver to inhibit the wind-evil. Astringent for diarrhea. Lubricate the intestines. Promote blood circulation.
Quotation or extract from publications and classics, or the saying of someone, mentioning the therapeutic effect	The Materia Medica (本草備要) states that "Cordyceps can stop bleeding and eliminate phlegm". Compendium of Materia Medica (本草綱目) states that "black soybean can relieve pain, disperse cold accumulated in the five internal organs".

<b>Without claiming therapeutic effects but with false and exaggerated wordings, likely to cause misunderstanding</b>	<b>Sample Phases</b>
Mention of physiological functions	Enhance immune response. Strengthen cellular functions. Improve mental performance. Invigorate the brain. Improve memory. Improve constitution. Relieve alcoholism. Eliminate free radicals. Detoxification. Decompose harmful substances
Mention of the five internal organs but not the efficacy of Chinese medicine	Maintain eyes functions. Replenish the liver. Fortify the elasticity of blood vessels.
Mention of modification of body outlook	Breast enhancement. Prevent and firm flabby breast. Lost weight. Improve body figure. Attain height. Darken hair. Slow down ageing process. Avoid ageing. Reduce wrinkles. Whiten the skin.
<b>Without claiming therapeutic effects nor Exaggerated wordings</b>	<b>Sample Phases</b>
Quoting relevant reference number of the Department of Health but without a full quotation of its main objective	Department of Health (DOH) Food No.88012345.
Sample phases generally allowed to quote	Facilitate normal development of teeth and bones. Help digestion. Help to maintain the function of digestive tract. Change the ecology of bacterioflora. Help bowel movement. Help urination. Regulate constitution. Regulate physiological function. Strengthen physique. Enhance physical stamina. Boost energy. Have beauty effects. Easy to fall asleep. Nutrient supplement. Maintain health. Maintain youthfulness. Source of youthfulness. Promote longevity. Nourishment during prenatal, postpartum and convalescent period. Promote metabolism. Reduce fatigue. Clear heat and quench thirst. Promote the production of body fluid to quench thirst. Whet the appetite. Work up an appetite. Reduce pathogenic fire. Remove pathogenic fire. Promote fresh breath. Stimulate saliva secretion. Soothe throat. Compendium of Materia Medica (本草綱目) states that the sweet and sour favour of plums helps promote the production of body fluid to quench thirst (without mentioning therapeutic effect).
Permitted description of the physiological functions of general nutrients	Dietary fiber: facilitate peristalsis of intestines. Enhance the sense of fullness. Soften stool for easy discharge. Appropriate quantity of dietary fiber enhances bowel movement.

Source: Extract from the List for Food Advertisements or Labels containing misrepresented, exaggerated wordings or carrying therapeutic claims under the Laws and Regulation on Health.



## Appendix II

### Health and Nutrient Food Market in Taiwan

A.1 In 1998, the total sales of nutrient food in Taiwan was NT\$22.3 billion (HK\$5.58 billion). 30% of the food was manufactured in Taiwan. The sales amount is expected to increase to NT\$22.8 billion (HK\$ 5.7 billion) in 1999, and will exceed NT\$24 billion (HK\$6 billion) in 2000<sup>17</sup>.

A.2 Among a population of 22 million, 65% (about 14.3 million) have taken nutrient food. The reasons for consumption are:

- (a) higher spending power and more disposable income per household;
- (b) more channels to buy nutrient food;
- (c) aging of the citizens in general; and
- (d) advice given to patients from doctors and dieticians to take nutrient food to prevent illness.

A.3 The main consumers of nutrient food are the elderly and the middle aged, who wish to enhance physical stamina and maintain good health. The younger generation takes nutrient food to relieve pressure from work and daily life.

A.4 According to the statistics published by the Department of Health in 1997 on the most popular nutrient in Taiwan, vitamins topped the list.

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<sup>17</sup> Angeli Chou, *Taiwan Dietary Supplements*, Industry Sector Analysis, US & Foreign Commercial Service & US Department of State, 1 August 1998.

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**Statistics on the Most Popular Nutrient Food in Taiwan in 1997**

<b>Types</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Vitamins (small doses)	Multivitamins	16.5
	Vitamin E	13.9
	Vitamin C	13.2
	Vitamin B Complex	5.1
	Fish liver oil	1.8
	Vitamin A	1.6
	Vitamin D	0.6
Nutrient Food	Pollen and others	14.6
	Fish Oil	1.9
	Chicken Essence	1.0
	Garlic Essence	1.0
Chinese Medicine	Chinese Herbs	6.9
	Chinese Herbs for women	4.5
	Ginseng	3.8
	Mushroom	2.7

Source: Angeli Chou, *Taiwan Dietary Supplements*, Industry Sector Analysis, US & Foreign Commercial Service & US Department of State, 1 August 1998.

## Appendix III

## Cases of Advertisements and Labels in Contravention to the Health Food Control Act

Details of the offence	Content of the Advertisements and Labels
Health maintenance effect of regulating blood lipid	Contain substances for blood cleansing and guard against thrombus
	Prevent and alleviate hyperlipemia and thrombus.
	Emulsify and eliminate cholesterol and triglyceride. Long term consumption can lower cholesterol and lipid level and guard against arteriosclerosis.
	Substance of tannic acid in red wine is a natural antioxidant found in grapes, which can prevent the oxidation of harmful cholesterol in blood.
	Contain OMEGA 3, help lowering cholesterol levels and guard against cardiovascular diseases.
	Lower cholesterol levels, stimulate blood circulation of the cardiac and circulatory system.
	Effectively lower the cholesterol levels, guard against coronary heart diseases, reduce the risk of arteriosclerosis.
	Lower cholesterol levels, detoxify blood, stimulate blood circulation, cleanse blood.
	Treat hyperlipemia, lower total cholesterol and triglyceride levels, enhance the levels of high density lipoprotein.
	Help remove waste substances in blood, cleanse blood.
	Chinese pronunciation of the brand name sounds like “fat removal”, marked with a picture showing the upper part of the body with blood vessels and organs such as the heart.
	Detoxify blood ... stimulate blood circulation.
	Konnyaku can balance the cholesterol content in the body.
Health maintenance effect of improving gastro-intestinal functions	Revive lactic acid bacteria and activate intestinal bacteria.
	Owing to factors such as diet, pressure and unclean environment etc, the survival ratio of healthy and harmful bacteria in the intestines lost its right balance. With decreasing healthy intestinal flora, the immune system is weakened, and problems such as constipation, indigestion and other intestinal disturbances arise. Therefore, the best way to maintain good health is to increase the survival ratio of healthy intestinal bacteria. XXX lactic acid bacteria, which contains healthy intestinal bacteria and bifidus bacteria in advanced gelatin capsule, can increase the quantities of healthy intestinal flora. With vitamin C, lactoalbumin and oligosaccharide, it provides essential vitamins to the body and promotes the growth of healthy intestinal bacteria.
	Effectively suppress the growth of harmful bacteria in the intestine.

Details of the offence	Content of the Advertisement and Labels
Health maintenance effect of improving gastro-intestinal Functions	<p>Invigorate the stomach and regulate intestinal functions.</p> <p>Claim to be a health food with all-in-one effect of regulating the stomach, small intestines and large intestines.</p> <p>Eliminate harmful intestinal bacteria.</p> <p>Regulate intestinal functions and guard against gastrointestinal disorders.</p> <p>Increase the quantity of healthy intestinal flora ... promote the growth of healthy intestinal bacteria.</p> <p>Greatly increase the bifidus bacteria in your baby's body, promote the growth of healthy intestinal bacteria and reduce harmful bacteria.</p> <p>Effectively revitalize bifidus bacteria. Intestinal flora will increase by 10 to 100 times after taking a few days.</p>
Health maintenance effect of improving gastro-intestinal functions  The first three phases are therapeutic claims, "regulation of intestinal functions" is a health maintenance effect of regulating gastro-intestinal functions. The overall meaning of the phases contravenes the Health Food Control Act	<p>Suitable for abnormal intestinal zymosis, constipation and indigestion, regulation of intestinal function.</p>
Health maintenance effect of regulating gastro-intestinal functions	<p>XXX OLIGO product claims to be a health food, and that "BIFIDUS is the best healthy flora. OLIGO promotes the growth of BIFIDUS."</p>
Health maintenance effect of alleviating Osteoporosis	<p>Make reserves for bone mass.</p> <p>Increase bone density.</p> <p>Replenish bone mass... Strong bones are developed by the middle age, quality milk powder enhances the absorption of calcium of the body.</p> <p>Inhibit the lost of calcium in bone mass, guard against osteoporosis.</p> <p>Increase bone mass.</p> <p>Guard against osteoporosis and fracture.</p> <p>Treat and replenish lost of calcium in bone mass.</p>

Details of the offence	Content of the Advertisement and Labels
Health maintenance effect of regulating the immune system	XXX contains vitamin C which can enhance the immune system.
	XXX is well known for enhancing the immune system and normalizing physiological functions.
	Strengthen the immune system, stimulate blood circulation, strengthen and enhance the immune system.
	Beta-carotene is added to strengthen the immune system of your baby.
	Immune boosting properties.
	Maintain the content of GSH in cells, maintain immune response of the body. GSH can strengthen the immune system and maintain the normal functioning of the immune system
	The best natural supplement that can greatly enhance the immune system... Revitalize immune cells... Have significant effect on various diseases resulted from immunodeficiency.
	XXX is the only health food approved by FDA of the USA to be safe for daily consumption. High quality immune lactoglobulin can enhance human immune response and strengthen the immune system.
Health maintenance effect of regulating the immune system and blood lipid	This product has been approved by the Mainland China, Health Food No: (1997) Health Maintenance Effect 569: Regulating immune system and blood lipid.
Health maintenance effect of regulating blood lipid, traders have been requested to amend	Chinese pronunciation of the brand name sounds like “blood cleansing effect assured”.
Labelled as “Health Food”	A natural health food product with rich protein.
	It is recently found that XXX is a health food with remarkable nourishing effect on human body.
Contains exaggerated and misleading phases	Labelled as approved health food and claim to have no side effects on liver and kidney.

Source: Extract from the “Explanatory cases on Food Advertisements and Labels” of the Office of Food Hygiene.

## Appendix IV

## Penal Provisions Related to Contravention of the Health Food Control Act

Contravention	Penal Provisions
Manufacture or import "health food" without official approval of the Department of Health	(a) Impose a fine between NT\$200,000 and NT\$1 million; and (b) Revoke the business or factory license
Label or advertise food as "health food" without official approval of the Department of Health (DOH), or claim that the food has health maintenance effects approved by DOH	Ditto
Commit the above two offences again within a year	(a) Sentence to not more than three years imprisonment; (b) Impose a fine of up to NT\$1 million; and (c) Revoke the business or factory license
Manufacture or import health food which is detrimental to human health	Ditto
Labels or advertisements containing information that is misrepresented, exaggerated and beyond the approved scope; or carrying therapeutic claims	(a) Revoke the health food permit; (b) Impose a fine between NT\$60,000 and NT\$300,000 on the person who request for publishing or broadcasting services, fines may run consecutively on each offence; (c) Inform in writing the operator of the mass media and the competent information authority of the county/city government; and (d) The mass media shall cease publishing or broadcasting from the date after the receipt of the letter.
The mass media impede or refuse to inform the Health Department at the county (city) level the name of the person who request for publishing and broadcasting services	Impose a fine between NT\$60,000 and NT\$300,000, running consecutively on each offence.
The mass media continues to publish or broadcast the non-compliant advertisement.	Impose a fine between NT\$60,000 and NT\$300,000, running consecutively on each offence.

Contravention	Penal Provisions
Manufacturers or importers of problematic health food fail to notify immediately their downstream businesses and fail to recall all products from the market and those kept in stock within a prescribed period	Impose a fine between NT\$300,000 and NT\$1 million, running consecutively on a day-to-day basis.
Refuse, impede or deliberately evade the random inspection or testing by the Health Department at the county /city level or failure to comply with the order to suspend or stop manufacturing, preparing, processing, selling or displaying	Impose a fine between NT\$30,000 and NT\$300,000, running consecutively.
If the violation is material or is repeated within one year	Revoke the business or factory license.
Failure to pay the fines within a prescribed period after a reminder for payment is issued	The case shall be referred to the court for compulsory execution.
Selling health food which is detrimental to human health	<p>(a) The buyer may return the goods and claim refund of the purchase price from the vendor. If the vendor knowingly sells harmful health food, the amount refunded shall be double the purchase price;</p> <p>(b) If the buyer suffers any other damage, the court shall order the vendor to pay the buyer punitive compensation of not more than three times the retail price of the product or not more than three times the value of the damage;</p> <p>(c) If the buyer is aware of such contravention, the penal provision does not apply.</p>

Source: Clauses 21 to 29 of the Health Food Control Amendment Bill

## Appendix V

## List of Health Food Permits issued by the Department of Health

Permit Number	Chinese Brand Name	Ingredients & Health Maintenance Components	Health Maintenance Effects
DOH Food No. A00001	身寶靈	Fish Oil (EPA, DHA) Garlic Powder (Allicin)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lower total cholesterol level in blood.</li> <li>2. Lower low density lipoprotein level in blood.</li> <li>3. Lower triglyceride level in blood.</li> <li>4. Reduce risk of cerebrovascular and cardiovascular diseases.</li> </ol>
DOH Food No. A00002	賜多利奶粉 (milk powder)	100% skimmed milk powder (Total immunoglobulin G, Specified immunoglobulin G)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce total cholesterol level in blood.</li> <li>2. Reduce low density lipoprotein level in blood.</li> <li>3. Reduce susceptibility to arteriosclerosis.</li> </ol>
DOH Food No. A00003	雙鶴極品靈芝 (Ling Zhi)	Ling Zhi Extract (Triterpenes, Polysaccharide)	<p>animal and in vitro tests identify the following effects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote the formation of antibody.</li> <li>2. Promote the growth of immunological cell.</li> <li>3. Regulate the function of T-cells.</li> <li>4. Accelerate the activity of natural killer cells.</li> <li>5. Accelerate the activity of phagocyte.</li> </ol>
DOH Food No. A00004	紅麴清醇膠囊 (capsule)	紅麴米(Rice) (HMG CoA Reductive ferment inhibitor)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce total cholesterol level in blood.</li> <li>2. Reduce low density lipoprotein level in blood.</li> <li>3. Reduce risk of cerebrovascular and cardiovascular diseases.</li> </ol>
DOH Food No. A00005	歐妙精製魚油膠囊 (fish oil capsule)	Refined Fish Oil (EPA ethyl ester, DHA ethyl ester)	Reduce triglyceride level in blood.
DOH Food No. A00006	統一 AB 優酪乳 (milk powder)	Lactogenesis, skimmed milk powder (Bifidobacterium Lactis Bb-12)	Pass the test of gastic acid and cholic acid, help to increase healthy intestinal bacteria.

Source: Department of Health of the Executive Yuan



## Appendix VI

### Classification of Safety Assessment

Category I: No further toxicity test is required if one of the following two conditions is met -

- (a) The raw materials of the product are conventional foodstuff and are usually consumed as processed food.
- (b) There is a complete academic literature report on the toxicity safety of the product and a record of human consumption; the raw materials, composition of ingredients and manufacturing procedure of the product are completely in line with the findings stated in the academic literature report submitted.

Category II: If the raw materials of the product are conventional foodstuff but are consumed in uncommonly processed form, information on the following toxicity tests should be provided for assessment.

- (a) Genotoxicity test
- (b) 28-day feeding toxicity test

Category III: If the raw materials of the product are not conventional foodstuff, information on the following toxicity tests should be provided for assessment.

- (a) Genotoxicity test
- (b) 90-day feeding toxicity test
- (c) Teratogenicity test

Category IV: If the raw materials of the product are not conventional foodstuff and contain carcinogenic or similar substances, information on the following toxicity tests should be provided for assessment.

- (a) Genotoxicity test
- (b) 90-day feeding toxicity test
- (c) Teratogenicity test
- (d) Carcinogenicity test
- (e) Reproduction test

### **Classification of Toxicity Tests**

(a) Genotoxicity test

To detect the damage directly or indirectly caused by the test substance on the gene and the extent of the damage. General genotoxicity test help project the carcinogenicity of the test substance.

(b) 28-day feeding toxicity test

To test the possible toxicity effects on mammals after being fed with the test substance for 28 consecutive days; to understand the variation of toxicity; and to determine the dosage which reacts negatively to toxicity tests.

(c) 90-day feeding toxicity test

To test the possible toxicity effects on mammals after being fed with the test substance for 90 consecutive days and to provide a basis for determining the dosage for a longer period of test.

(d) Teratogenicity

To test the effects of the test substance on embryo development and the possibility of abnormal embryo development.

(e) Carcinogenicity test

To determine the dosage which will cause carcinogenic effect over a long period of time, with reference to the test animals' immunity to communicable diseases; their life cycle; the natural incidence rate of congenital tumour; and their sensitivity to carcinogenic substances.

(f) Reproduction test

To test the effects of the test substance on the reproductive power of the two sexes, as well as on the transportation and implantation of the fertilized ovum.

Source: Methodology for Safety Assessment of Health Food

## Appendix VII

**Cases of non-conforming Food Labels  
Investigated and Handled by  
City/County Health Department in July 2000**

<b>Brand name of non-conforming food product</b>	<b>Brief description of offences</b>	<b>Provision and penalties</b>
Fat Filter and Vessels Relaxing Capsules (濾脂舒脈軟膠囊)	Legend not conform to legal requirement, ingredients not indicated in Chinese, misleading picture (food).	Contravention of Article 17 and first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$60,000.
SUPRAEPA (速寶 SUPRAEPA)	Name of content not conform to product registration. Contains exaggerated or misleading information.	Contravention of Article 17 and first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$60,000
Goat's Full Milk Powder (春泉全脂羊奶粉)	Ingredients labelled not conform to content	Contravention of first paragraph of Article 17, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$30,000
Milk Product (味全牛乳)	Expiry date passed	Contravention of subparagraph 8 of Article 11, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$30,000
Mushroom and Minced Meat Bun (香菇肉燥包)	False information on shelf life	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$30,000
Capsule (新力保干膠囊)	Chinese pronunciation of the product name likely to cause misunderstanding	Contravention of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$9,000 (the former Act was applied in this case).
Jelly (嗶嗶果凍)	Without the address and telephone number of the manufacturer	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 17, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$30,000
Shape forming food (調型大師) (仙諾維斯)	Exaggerated wordings, DOH Food Label not quoted in full.	Contravention of Article 17 and first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$30,000
USA Natural Vitamins E+C Tablets (美國天然依麗爾維他命 E+C 口含錠)	Name of content not provided as required, telephone number of manufacturer not conform to the requirement.	Violation of first paragraph of Article 17, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000
Soup base of rib favour noodles	Without any labels	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 17, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000

Brand name of non-conforming food product	Brief description of offences	Offences and penalties
Calcium Supplement Tablets (增鈣錠)	DOH Food Label not quoted in full	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000
Cake (QQ 米血糕)	Without manufacture date	Contravention of Article 17, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 9,000 (former Act was used in this case).
Cuttlefish Ball	Without expiry date	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 17, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000
Placenta Capsule (美姿樂胎盤素軟膠囊) (賜您甘軟膠囊)	Chinese label not conform to the requirement	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 17, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000.
Salmon Fish Thins (珍珍鮭魚香絲)	Expiry date passed	Contravention of subparagraph 8 of Article 11, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000
Powder (春日蓮蕉粉)	Name of content not displayed in Chinese	Contravention of first paragraph of Article 17, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000
100% Orange Juice (佛州 100%柳橙汁)	Expiry date passed	Contravention of subparagraph 8 of Article 11, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000
XienniKo (讓你酷)	Advertisement containing false and exaggerated information	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 40,000
Intestines Cleanser (腸之淨化), EZ6024 Cleansing Tea for beauty (美之淨化茶), Organic Body Trimming Essence (有機纖體素)	Advertisement containing false and exaggerated information	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 70,000
Pro-XienniKo (讓你酷)	Advertisement containing false and exaggerated information	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000
Propolis (三立蜂膠)	Advertisement containing false and exaggerated information	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000

Brand name of non-conforming food product	Brief description of offences	Offences and penalties
Women's Capsule (婦女寶 AB 膠囊)	Advertisement containing false and exaggerated information	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 30,000
Women's Capsule (婦女寶 AB 膠囊)	Advertisement containing false and exaggerated information	Contravention of the first paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 35,000
Shark's Cartilage, Alfalfa, White Sweet Potato Powder (鯊魚軟骨素、苜蓿芽、白蕃薯粉)	Advertisement containing false and exaggerated information and referring to therapeutic effects	Contravention of the second paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 200,000
Ling Zhi and Mushroom Essence (得麗靈芝香菇精), Tea (諾諾妙用茶), Calcium supplement (道南珊瑚鈣), Chitosan (金得麗吉多桑)	Advertisement containing false and exaggerated information	Contravention of Article 20, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 36,000 (Former Act was adopted in this case).
Hong Li Yi Ding Ling (紅力一定靈)	Advertisement containing false and exaggerated information and referring to therapeutic effects.	Contravention of the second paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 230,000
Calcium Powder (道南珊瑚鈣粉), Tea (諾諾妙用茶)	Advertisement containing false and exaggerated information and referring to therapeutic effects.	Contravention of the second paragraph of Article 19, Food Sanitation Control Act. A fine of NT\$ 200,000

Source: Extract from the "Cases of non-conforming food label investigated and handled by City/County Health Department in July 2000" published by the Department of Health of the Executive Yuen.

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