



SIAL Middle East Conference (SIAL 2011)  
21 -23 Nov 2011

## *Future Legislations Pertaining* **Labeling and Health Claims in UAE**

### **Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA)**

**Eng. Mustafa Salma**

Food Safety Specialist

Policy & Regulation Sector

ADFCA

*Mustafa.salma@adfca.ae*



**ADFCA**

## Outline

- Introduction
- Role of ADFCA in enhancing Food Safety
- The legislative Status for Policies and Regulations Pertaining Food and agriculture sector
- ADFCA's Key achievements pertaining to the food and Agriculture Legislations.
- The ongoing progress and future Legislations
- Authorization of Nutrition and health claims
- International and Regional Cooperation
- Challenges

## □ Introduction

- The law No. (2) year 2005 pertaining of establishing of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA ).
- Its objectives including protecting humans against food related hazards and ensuring the safety and quality of food intended for human consumption, while conducting the studies and researches related to food safety.
- The mandate of issuing bylaws and decrees pertinent to food within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

## Vision

An internationally recognized food and agriculture organization that contributes to the well-being of the community

## Mission

To develop a sustainable agriculture and food sector that ensures the delivery of safe food to the public and protects the health of animals and plants while promoting sound environmental and food practices through cohesive and effective policies and regulations, quality standards, research and awareness.



The graphic features a large, detailed image of a brown falcon on the left side. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow. In the top left corner, there is a circular logo with Arabic text and the tagline "YOUR GUARD TO SAFE FOOD". To the right of the logo, the word "Vision" is written in a bold, white font, followed by a short paragraph. Below this, the word "Mission" is written in a bold, white font, followed by a longer paragraph. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo with Arabic text and the acronym "ADFCA" written in a bold, yellow font. At the bottom left, the website address "www.adfca.ae" is displayed in white text on a black background.

**Vision**  
An internationally recognized food and agriculture organization that contributes to the well-being of the community.

**Mission**  
To develop a sustainable agriculture and food sector that ensures the delivery of safe food to the public and protects the health of animals and plants while promoting sound environmental practices through cohesive and effective policies and regulations, quality standards, research and education.

**ADFCA**

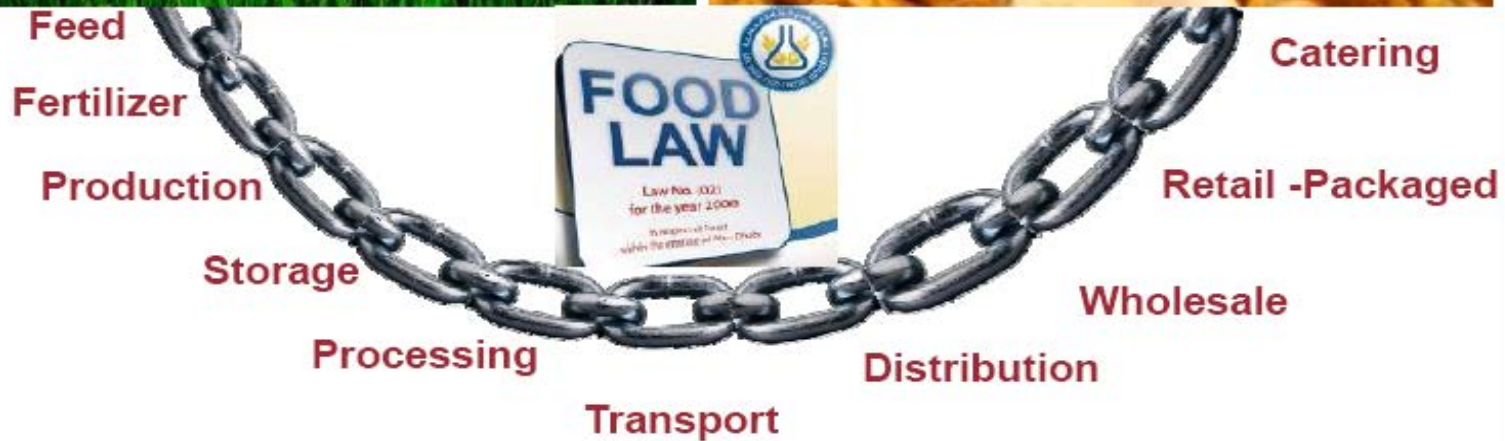
[www.adfca.ae](http://www.adfca.ae)

## ❑ Role of ADFCA in enhancing Food Safety

An entity with different roles due to the current status of the food and agriculture sector:

- Develop the primary & secondary legislations benchmarked to internationally recognized best practices.
- Provide consumers with sufficient information (including recall & labeling info) on food intended for human consumption to empower them for better informed choice.
- Collaborating with local, federal, regional and international entities educating consumers and promoting self- monitoring of food safety
- Protecting the public from health risks by assuring food safety throughout the food chain.
- Contributing to securing food supply for the Emirate.
- Developing the agriculture industry to become more sustainable ( ecologically, economically, socially.)

# Farm To Fork Policy



## ❑ **The legislative Status for Policies and Regulations Pertaining Food and agriculture sector**

Food safety policy document designed by ADFCA was launched early 2011 to:

- Enhance consumer information to enable informed choice;
- Prevent poor quality foods from being sold in the public places especially for children.
- No nutrition and health policy statement till now either on the national or local level.

## ❑ ADFCA's Key achievements pertaining to the food and Agriculture Legislations.

- **Law No. (2) for the year 2008 in respect of Food within the emirate of Abu Dhabi.**

The most important and key primary legislation is the “Law No.2 pertaining to Food within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi”, thus bringing Abu Dhabi to be the first on the national level and among the early few on the regional level in setting the key legislative basis in the area of food safety.





## ❑ Secondary Legislations

- *Reg1/2008; Description of Violations Related to Food & It's Handling.*
- *Reg2/2008; Risk-Based Approach for the Control of Imported foods (via borders of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi).*
- *Reg3/2008; Food Traceability & Recall.*
- *Reg4/2010 Animal Identification and Registration System for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.*
- *Reg5/2010 Food Sampling for Official Control.*
- *Reg6/2010 Food hygiene throughout the Food Chain.*
- *Reg7/2010 Farmer's Income Improving Program.*
- *Guide the optimal use of water for irrigation.*
- *Guide the use of pesticides.*
- *Guide the food in school canteen*
- *CoP Food Incidents & Crisis Management Plan.*
- *CoP Recall and traceability*



## □ The Ongoing Progress & Future Legislations

**Phase 2010-2011 - develop various legislations and Code of practices pertaining:**

- *CoP Food hygiene in catering sector,*
- *CoP Slaughterhouses,*
- *Implementation of HACCP system in the food industry*
- **Code of practice for General Labeling requirements of Prepackaged Foods.**
- **Code of practice for Nutritional and health claim.**
- *Regulation on proper usage on farms in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi,*
- *Regulation on Animal production establishment registration requirements.*
- *Good Agriculture Practices code.*
- *Manual of animal disease epidemiology*

## *Food & Medicinal Products*

*The Abu-Dhabi Food Law no. (2) for the year 2008* has defined a **food** as “substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended for human consumption, and includes drink, chewing gum and any substance which has been used in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of food but does not include cosmetics or tobacco or substances used only as drugs”

*UAE Pharmacy law no.(4) for the year 1984* has defined a **Medicinal product** as “ includes any substance or mixture of substances manufactured, sold or represented for use in:

- (a) the **diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of a disease, disorder or abnormal physical state**, or its symptoms, in human beings or animal;
- (b) **restoring, correcting or modifying** organic functions in human beings or animals;

## ❑ Draft Legislations Completed and to be published by ADFCA soon

### 1- Code of practice - General Labeling requirements of Prepackaged Foods

- This Code of Practice has been developed by ADFCA (to be published officially next year) to give manufacturers, producers and retailers practical advice on how best to label food products so that the information is presented clearly to the consumer. It also helps to be aware of the legal labeling requirements for pre-packed foods.
- This code of practice shall apply to the labelling of all pre-packaged foods to be offered for sale on the market in Abu Dhabi to the consumer and/or for supply to large scale caterers.

#### - Related Documents:

1. UAE.S/GSO No. 09/2007 on labeling of prepackaged food
2. UAE.S/GSO/CAC/GL No. 2-1985 on Guidelines on nutrition labeling.



## 2- Code of practice - Nutrition and health claim on food

- This Code of Practice has been developed by ADFCA (to be published officially next year). It relates to the use of nutrition and health claims in food labelling and, where required by the Authority.
- It shall apply to all foods for which nutrition, health or any claims are made to be offered for sale on the market in Abu Dhabi to the consumer and/or for supply to mass caterers and intended to supplement the code of practice on “General Food Labelling Requirements” and it does not supersede any prohibitions contained therein.

### - Related Documents:

1. UAE.S/GSO No. 09/2007 on labeling of prepackaged food
2. UAE ministerial cabinet decree no 34/2006 pertaining adopting the following Codex guidelines

No. 23/1997 on Guidelines for use of nutrition and health claims (Amended in 2008), No. 1/1979 (Rev. 1-1991) on General guidelines on claims, and no. 2-1985 on Guidelines on nutrition labeling.



## ❑ **Authorization of Nutrition and health claim on food**

- **Nutrition Claims** does not require a submission for authorization, but these claims shall comply with ADFCA food labeling codes and technical regulation, guidelines for use of nutrition and health claims (UAE.S/GSO/CAC/GL 23/2006)
- **Health Claims:** lack of an adequate regulation for the approval process due to the lack of the scientific substantiation of Health Claims.
- The Code mentioned that Food business operator shall be able to justify the claims made and, when required, provide the regulatory authority (ADFCA) documentation and evidence in support of the claim particularly, the health claim which outweighs any opposing evidence or opinion.
- All health claims are prohibited unless they are scientifically substantiated and **listed as approved Health Claims in ADFCAs' database/WEBSITE.**

Can any food establishment use the health claims from the approved list of health claims in ADFCA's Database?

*Yes. Any health claim available in ADFCA database can be used, but when required, they should provide the regulatory authority (ADFCA) the documentation and evidences in support of the claim.*

What will FBO do if the health claim is not available in the approved list of health claims in ADFCA?

If FBO wish to make a health claim on its food product and this claim is not available in the approved list of health claims, FBO must make a submission to ADFCA for authorization and approval according to the temporary procedure of registration of a food with nutrition and health claim

## ❑ International and Regional Cooperation

### International Level

- Codex Alimentarius
- Scientific Committee Meetings



### Regional Level

- GCC subcommittee on Functional , organic and Genetically Modified foods for GCC countries. (**ADFCA chairs the Technical Secretariat**)
- GCC Committee for Food and Agricultural Standards Products (GSO) for GCC countries.





*National Level*

- Emirates Authority of Standardization and Meteorology- ESMA  
**Committee on Food and Agricultural Standards Products**
- Ministry of Health - MoH  
**Committee on borderline products**
- Health Authority of Abu Dhabi - HAAD  
**Technical Working Group on Food Health Claims**

## ❑ Dissemination of information

- Mass media
- Telephone Hot-line (Arabic & English)
- Website (Arabic & English; FAQ)
- Nutrition education posters and brochures
- Seminars, workshops and conferences for nutrition
- Exhibits/health fairs/campaigns



## ❑ Challenges

- The number of food products bearing health claims marketed in UAE is increasing on daily basis; (majority are imported)
- Food with health claims are widely distributed without an adequate control
- A wide range of dietary/food supplements products falls into the category of Food with health claims and these dietary/food supplements are identified as products from the “**grey area**” and are not classified at the local and federal level and a bright line between Food type Dietary/Food supplement and a Drug type Dietary/Food supplement is not yet finalized.
- The lack of adequate legislation pertaining Health Claims, and standards need to be updated and keep abreast of international standards to avoid any barrier to trade.
- The lack of national Consumption behavior.
- Variation in technical capabilities & competence and difficulty in conducting risk assessments and scientific studies.

Thank you