

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Mexico Approves a Decree to Reduce Trans Fats

Country: Mexico

Post: Mexico City ATO

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Trade Policy Monitoring, Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

On Friday, March 24, 2023, the Federal Registry published to the addition of “Article 216 Bis” to the General Health Law related to trans fats. The addendum will regulate the use of trans fats in food processing, mandating that the fatty acid content should not exceed 2 percent of the product’s total nutritional value. The Ministry of Health will establish the guidelines for regulating the use of trans fats in food processing. The decree will enter into force 180 days after its publication in the Federal Registry. The Federal Executive will adapt the regulations and agreements to allow in the administrative scope what is foreseen in the present decree.

Background:

On October 26, 2021, the Senate sent a draft decree to add Article 216 Bis¹ to the General Health Law. On the same day, the Chamber of Deputies —Mexico’s Lower House—sent the bill to the Health Commission for analysis.

On April 25, 2022, the Health Commission approved the addition of Article 216 Bis to the General Health Law, publishing the opinion on February 9, 2023, in the Parliamentary Gazette of the Lower House.

Decree Purpose and Scope of Application

The purpose of the Decree is to add a specific article to the General Health Law that regulates the use of trans fats in food processing.

The specific modifications of the article are:

Sole Article: Article 216 Bis is added to the General Health Law, that reads as follows:

Article 216 Bis: Edible oils and fats, processed foods, and non-alcoholic beverages, cannot contain in their retail presentation partially hydrogenated oils (known as trans fats) which have been added during the food process.

The industrially produced fatty acid content of processed foods, non-alcoholic beverages, oils, and fats may not exceed 2 percent of the product’s total nutritional value.

The Health Secretariat will establish the guidelines for industrial production of fatty acids.

Transitory Articles

First. This decree will enter into force 180 days after its publication in the Federal Registry.

Second. The Federal Executive will adapt the regulations and agreements to allow in the administrative scope what is foreseen in the present decree.

Upcoming Actions

The Health Secretariat will establish the guidelines for industrial production of fatty acids. As of the publication of the decree there is no additional information available on the path of the guidelines. Mexico is part of the 60 countries that are taking actions to eliminate the use of trans fats in processed foods.

It is expected that this measure will help the reduction of heart diseases related to the consumption of processed foods and beverages that contain trans fats.

Post will be monitoring the guidelines and actions from the Health Secretariat.

Attachments:

No Attachments.

ⁱ Bis – following a number in a series that indicates the same number was already used.