



**Breastfeeding
Promotion Network of India**
(Registered Under Societies Registration Act
XXI of 1860, Delhi R-No S-23144)
BP-33, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
Tel: +91-11-42683059
Email: bpni@bpni.org
Website: www.bpni.org

BPNI/IMS Act/2026/45

February 24, 2026

**To,
Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration
Office of the Commissioner of Food Safety,
Old Fisheries Building,
1st and 2nd Floor, No.359, Anna Salai,
D.M.S. Campus, Teynampet, Chennai-600 006**

Subject: Complaint Regarding Suspected Violation of the IMS Act, 1992 (as amended) by Abbott India Ltd. in CME Organized in Chennai

Respected Sir/Madam,

The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) <https://www.bpni.org/> is a 34-year-old non-profit organization that works for protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding in India. BPNI works on policy analysis, skill training of health workers, and monitoring the compliance with the Infant Milk Substitutes Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003 (IMS Act). India enacted the IMS Act, which came into force in August 1993. An offence committed under this law is cognizable. The Government of India notified "Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)" wide No G.S.R. 540 (E), dated the 27th June 1994, to monitor the compliance with the Act under clause (c) of the sub-section (1) of Section 21(Annex-1)

I am writing to formally bring to your attention a matter concerning a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme titled "CONFLUENCE 2.0 – Importance of Annual Influenza Vaccination in Children", scheduled on 1st March 2026 at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, **and organized by Abbott India Ltd which is one of the leading infant milk substitute and baby food manufactures.**

As per the agenda document circulated (copy attached Annex-2), the event is sponsored and organized by Abbott India Ltd., with participation of national and international speakers.

Under the provisions of IMS Act:

- **Section 9(2) of IMS Act states, "No producer, supplier or distributor referred to in sub-section (1), shall offer or give any contribution or pecuniary benefit to a health worker or any association of health workers, including funding of seminar, meeting, conferences, educational course, contest, fellowship, research work or sponsorship."**



I respectfully request you to designate the food safety officer of jurisdiction of Mount Road, Guindy Chennai to: *(Information on Authorised officer to take action under IMS Act attached in Annex -3)*

1. Examine the nature of sponsorship, hospitality-hotel payment and payments/honorarium to be made to doctors by the company and list of invites.
2. Take appropriate action in case of violation, in accordance with Section 9(2) of the IMS Act.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this complaint and inform us of any action taken.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Nupur Bidla
Central Coordinator BPNI

Copy to:

1. **Ms. Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI**
2. **Shri Anil Malik, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI**
3. **President, Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP)**
4. **President, National Neonatology Forum (NNF)**

Annex-1

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी. एल.—33004/95

REGD. NO. D.L.—33004/95



भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (i)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (i)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय
(महिला और बाल विकास विभाग)

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 24 जुलाई, 1995

सा.का.नि. 562(अ).—केन्द्रीय सरकार, शिशु दुग्ध अनुकल्प पोषण बोतल और शिशु खाद्य (उत्पादन प्रदाय और वितरण विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1992 (1992 का 41) की धारा 21 की उपधारा (1) के खण्ड (ग) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, उक्त धारा के अधीन लिखित रूप में शिकायत करने के लिए बाल कल्याण और विकास तथा बाल पोषाहार में लगे निम्नलिखित स्वैच्छिक संगठन को प्राधिकृत करती है, अर्थात्:—

ब्रेस्टफीडिंग प्रमोशन नेटवर्क ऑफ इंडिया (बी पी एन आई)
बी पी-33, पीतमपुरा, दिल्ली-34

1763 GI/95

(1)

और उक्त प्रयोजन के लिए भारत सरकार के मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (महिला और बाल विकास विभाग) की अधिसूचना सं. सा. का. नि. 540(अ), तारीख 27 जून, 1994 में निम्नलिखित संशोधन करती है, अर्थात् :—

उक्त अधिसूचना में, क्रम सं. 3 और उससे संबंधित प्रविष्टि के पश्चात् निम्नलिखित क्रम संख्यांक और प्रविष्टि जोड़ी जाएगी, अर्थात् :—

“4. ब्रेस्टफीडिंग प्रमोशन नेटवर्क ऑफ इंडिया (बी पी एन आई) बी पी-33 पीतमपुरा, दिल्ली-34।”

[फा. सं. 12-9/94 एन टी]
बी. सैन, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(Department of Women and Child Development)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 24th July, 1995

G.S.R. 562(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (c) of Sub-Section (1) of Section 21 of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (41 of 1992), the Central Government hereby authorises the following voluntary organisation engaged in the field of child welfare and development and child nutrition to make a complaint in writing under the said section, namely :—

Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI),
BP-33, Pitampura, Delhi-34.

and for the said purpose makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Women and Child Development) G.S.R. 540(E), dated the 27th June, 1994, namely :—

In the said notification, after serial No. 3 and the entry relating thereto, the following serial number and entry shall be added, namely :—

“4. Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI),
BP-33, Pitampura, Delhi-34.”

[F. No. 12-9/94-NT]

B. SEN, Jt. Secy.

THE INFANT MILK SUBSTITUTES, FEEDING BOTTLES AND INFANT FOODS (REGULATION OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION) ACT, 1992

INTRODUCTION

Infant malnutrition is a major contributory cause of his incidence of infant mortality and physical and mental handicaps. The health of infants and young children cannot be isolated from the health and nutrition of women. The mother and her infant form a biological unit. Breast-feeding is an integral part of the reproductive process. It is the natural and ideal way of feeding the infant and provides a unique biological and emotional basis for healthy child development. The anti-effective properties of mother's milk protect infants against diseases. The effect of breast-feeding on child spacing, on the health and well being of the mother, on family health and on national economy is well recognised. Breast-feeding is, therefore, a key aspect of self-reliance and primary health care. It is, therefore, essential to protect and promote breast-feeding and to protect pregnant women and nursing mothers from any influence that could disrupt it. Inappropriate feeding practices lead to malnutrition, morbidity in our children. Promotion of infant milk substitutes and related products like feeding bottles and teats do constitute a health hazard. Promotion of infant milk substitutes and related products has been more extensive and pervasive than the dissemination of information concerning the advantages of mother's milk and breast-feeding and contributes to decline in breast-feeding. In the absence of strong interventions designed to protect, promote and support breast-feeding this decline can assume dangerous proportions subjecting millions of infants to greater risks of infection, malnutrition and death. In view of the vulnerability of infants in the early months of life to the aforesaid risks and the risks involved in appropriate feeding practices including the unnecessary and improper use of infant milk substitutes, feeding accessories and infant foods, it came necessary to regulate the marketing of such products. In May, 1981 the World Health Assembly adopted an International Code for Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes. The Government of India recognised this Code and adopted the "Indian National Code for Protection of Breast-Feeding in December, 1983. To give effect to the principles and aims of this Code the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill was introduced in the Parliament.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Every child has a right to be adequately nourished as a means of attaining and maintaining health. Infant malnutrition is a major contributory cause of high incidence of infant mortality and physical and mental handicaps. The health of infants and young children cannot be isolated from the health and nutrition of women. The mother and her infant form a biological unit. Breast-feeding is an integral part of the reproductive process. It is the natural and ideal way of feeding the infant and provides a unique biological and emotional basis for healthy child

development. The anti-infective properties of mother's milk protect infants against diseases. The effect of breast-feeding on child spacing, on the health and well being of the mother, on family health and on national economy is well recognised. Breast-feeding is, therefore, a key aspect of self-reliance and primary health care. It is, therefore, essential to protect and promote breast-feeding and to protect pregnant women and nursing mothers from any influence that could disrupt it.

2. Inappropriate feeding practices lead to infant malnutrition, morbidity and mortality in our children. Promotion of infant milk substitutes and related products like feeding bottles and teats do constitute a health hazard. Promotion of infant milk substitutes and related products has been more extensive and pervasive than the dissemination of information concerning the advantages of mother's milk and breast-feeding and contributes to decline in breast-feeding. In the absence of strong interventions designed to protect, promote and support breast-feeding this decline can assume dangerous proportions subjecting millions of infants to greater risks of infections, malnutrition and death.

3. In the light of the foregoing considerations and in view of the vulnerability of infants in the early months of life to the aforesaid risks and the risks involved in inappropriate feeding practices including the unnecessary and improper use of infant milk substitutes, feeding accessories and infant foods, it has become necessary to regulate the marketing of such products. For the proper nutrition and health of the world's children, the World Health Assembly adopted in May, 1981 an International Code for marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes. The Government of India recognised this Code and adopted the "Indian National Code for Protection and Promotion of Breast-Feeding" (hereinafter referred to as the Code) in December, 1983.

4. The Code envisages that there shall be no advertising or other form of sales promotion of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles and teats. The Code, in accordance with this general principle enjoins the health authorities to encourage and protect breast-feeding and also prescribes several measures to control the marketing and promotion of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles, teats and infant foods.

5. The Bill proposes to give effect to the principles and aims of the Code. Accordingly, it prohibits advertisement of infant milk substitutes and feeding bottles and also prescribes measures to ensure that in the marketing of infant milk substitutes no impression is given that feeding of these products is equivalent to, or better than, breast-feeding. The provisions relating to labelling and quality control of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles and infant foods are proposed to be implemented through the concerned Departments in the State Government and Union territory administrations under the overall control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Contravention of the provisions of the Bill will be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, or with both. However, the contravention of certain provisions of the Bill relating to labelling or quality control of such substitutes or food will be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to three years and with fine which shall not be less than two thousand rupees.

6. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.



CONFLUENCE 2.0


International Speaker Program

Topic: Importance of Annual Influenza Vaccination in Children

Image used is for representation purpose only



 01st March
2026

 8:00 - 9:30 PM

 ITC Grand Chola,
Chennai

International Speaker



Prof. Terho Heikkinen

Chief Pediatrician, Dept. of Pediatrics, Turku University, Finland

Chairperson/Moderator



Prof. Dr. R. Kishore Kumar

Chief Consultant Neonatologist,
Founder Chairman & Executive Director,
Cloudnine Hospitals India

Indian Speaker



Dr. Somu Sivabalan

Consultant Paediatrician
& Pulmonologist,
Rainbow Children's Hospital,
Chennai

AGENDA

Topic	Speaker	Duration
Welcome note and Context Setting	Abbott Medical	2 mins
Impact of Influenza in Children	Chairperson/ Moderator	10 mins
Importance of Annual Vaccination in Children	International Speaker	45 mins
Influenza Vaccination in Children: Indian perspective	Indian Speaker	15 mins
Q & A session	All speakers and Abbott Medical	15 mins
Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks	Abbott Medical	3 mins

We look forward to your gracious presence

Disclaimer: This CME is organized by Abbott* for facilitating knowledge sharing within the medical fraternity. The CME content is shared for information purposes only and reflects the views of the speakers and/or scientific references as cited. It is not intended to represent Abbott's viewpoint on the matter or to promote Abbott's products. The CME is fundamentally focused on education, scientific exchange and sharing of speakers' own experiences and practices for academic discussion purposes only. Nothing in this CME should be construed as Abbott giving medical advice or making a recommendation, endorsement or sponsorship of any kind. Nor does it seek to replace medical opinion or independent professional judgement to be exercised by participants in their clinical practice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the CME information, Abbott is not responsible for any error, omission or consequence arising from the use of this information. If there is a reference to any products in the CME please refer to full prescribing information for complete details of such products.

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Annex-3

THE INFANT MILK SUBSTITUTES, FEEDING BOTTLES AND INFANT FOODS (REGULATION OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION) RULES, 1993¹

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 26 of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (41 of 1992), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) These rules may be called the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Rules, 1993.

(2) They shall come into force on the date² of commencement of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (41 of 1992).

2. Definitions.—(1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Act" means the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (41 of 1992);

(b) "authorised officer" means an officer not below the rank of a Class I (Group A or whatever name called) officer of the Government duly authorised by the State Government under section 12;

(c) "food inspector" means a person appointed by the Government as such under section 9 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (37 of 1954);

(d) "section" means a section of the Act.

(2) Words and expressions used in these rules and not defined but defined in the Act shall have the respective meanings assigned to them in the Act.

3. Local limits of jurisdiction of food inspectors.—The local limits of jurisdiction of food inspectors shall be the same as are assigned to them under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (37 of 1954).

4. Authorised officers.—(1) No officer of the Government shall be authorised by the State Government under section 12 unless he is—

(a) a medical officer in charge of health administration of a local area; or

(b) a graduate in medicine and has received at least one month's training in food inspection and sampling work approved for the purpose of food inspection under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (37 of 1954) by the Central Government or a State Government.

1. *Vide* G.S.R. 528(E), dated 31st July, 1993, published in the Gazette of India, Extra., Pt. II, Sec. 3(i), dated 31st July, 1993.

2. Came into force on 1-8-1993 *vide* G.S.R. 527 (E), dated 31st July, 1993, published in the Gazette of India, Pt. II, Sec. 3(i), dated 31st July, 1993.

(2) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, define the local limits of jurisdiction of authorised officers.

5. Conditions and restrictions for donation and distribution of ¹[infant milk substitutes or infant foods or feeding bottles] or equipments and materials relating to them through health care system.—No institution, organisation or health worker in private practice, engaged in health care for mothers, infants or pregnant women, shall donate or distribute any educational or other informational or communication aids relating to ¹[infant milk substitutes or infant foods or feeding bottles] without complying with the following conditions and restrictions, namely:—

- (a) the donor should be informed in writing on—
 - (i) the need for promoting breast-feeding;
 - (ii) the nutritional superiority of mother's milk;
 - (iii) the benefits of breast milk, that is to say that breast milk is—
 - (A) the best natural food for infants;
 - (B) always clean;
 - (C) protects the infant from infection and diseases;
 - (D) available always;
 - (E) requires no special preparation;
 - (iv) that breast-feeding helps parents to space their children;
 - (v) the danger of microbial contamination involved in bottle feeding;
- (b) informational or educational equipment or material relating to ¹[infant milk substitutes or infant foods or feeding bottles] should be donated or distributed only in case it is found necessary for healthy growth of the infant by a medical practitioner.

6. Language of the notice and other particulars of declaration.—(1) No person shall produce, supply or distribute any infant milk substitute or infant food unless the container thereof or any label affixed thereto indicates in a clear, conspicuous and in an easily readable and understandable manner the words "IMPORTANT NOTICE", in capital letters in English and its equivalent in Hindi in Devnagri script:

Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the use of any local language in addition to the language required to be used under this sub-rule.

(2) The particulars of declaration to be specified on the label under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (37 of 1954) and the rules made thereunder shall be in English or in Hindi in Devnagri script:

Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the user of any language in addition to the language required to be used under this sub-rule.

1. Subs. by G.S.R. 959(E), dated 19th December, 2003 (w.e.f. 1-1-2004).