

Reduction of Salt in Certain Foodstuffs within the context of Health Legislation

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Department of Health
Directorate: Food Control



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FOOD CONTROL:

“A **mandatory regulatory activity of enforcement by national, provincial or local authorities to provide **consumer protection** and ensure that all foods during production, handling, storage, processing and distribution are safe, **wholesome** and fit for human consumption; conform to quality and safety requirements; and are **honestly and accurately labelled** as prescribed by law”**



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIRECTORATE: FOOD CONTROL

MISSION:

The Directorate: Food Control ensures an optimal **non-personal preventative primary health care service** in respect of the **safety and nutritional aspects of food for the South African community**, based on basic needs and the right to make informed choices without being misled, **by means of scientifically founded legislation, auditing and information actions**



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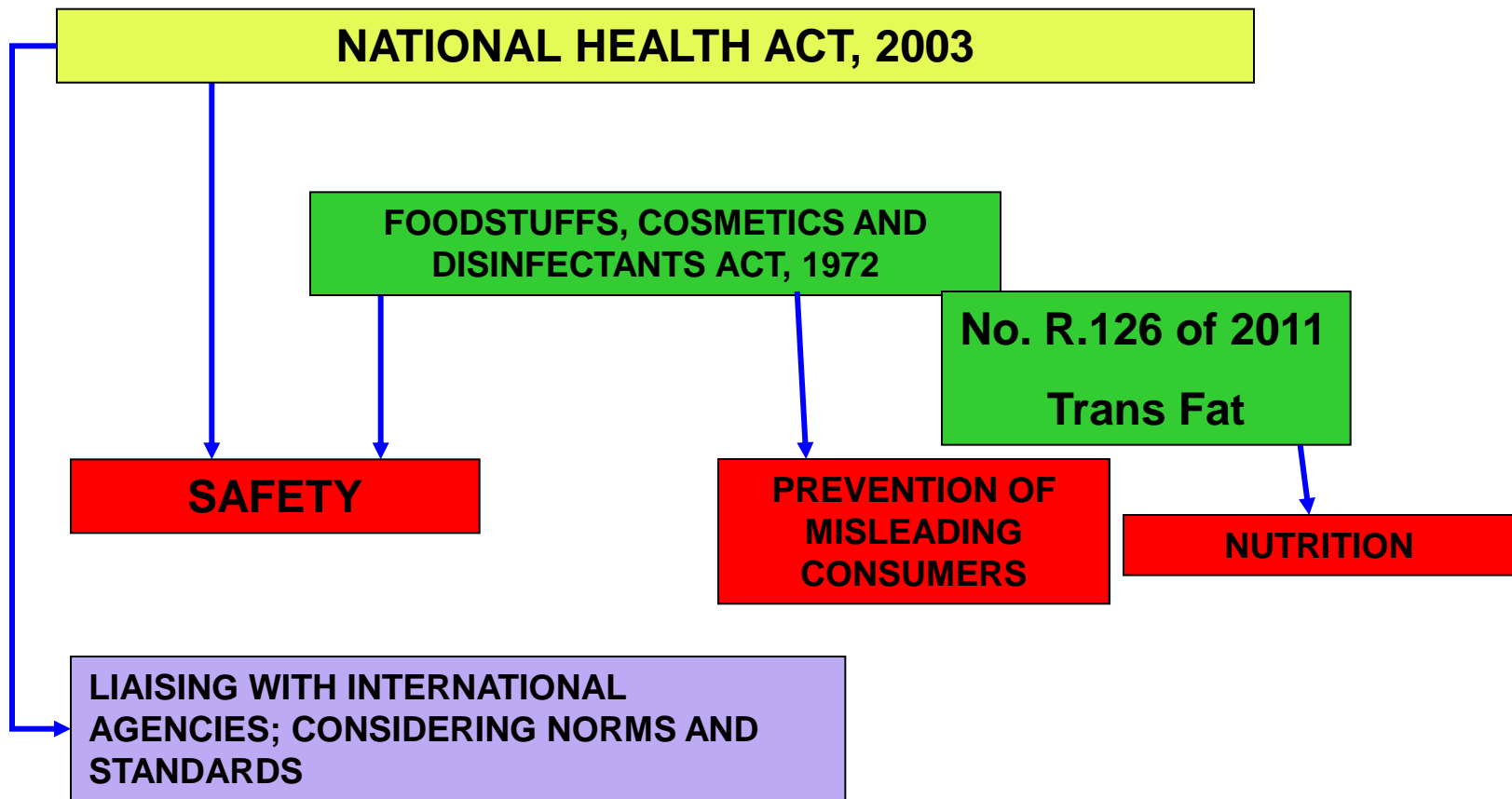
MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTORATE: FOOD CONTROL

- **Support provinces and municipalities** on food law & monitoring
- **Inform, educate and communicate (IEC)**, food safety and related matters to stakeholders such as industry, consumers, media, etc.
- **Develop and publish legislation** relating to food safety, food labelling and related matters
- **Evaluate chemicals** present in food and food produced by means of **modern biotechnology**
- **Co-ordinate food monitoring** conducted by provinces & municipalities, as well as **food safety alerts**
- **National Contact Points** for the joint **FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, INFOSAN and RASFF**



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National Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003)

CHAPTER 1

OBJECTIVES OF ACT....

Responsibility for Health

3. (1) the Minister must, within the limits of available resources-
- (a) Endeavour to protect, promote, improve and maintain the health of the population;
 - (b) Promote the inclusion of health services in the socio-economic development plan of the Republic
 - (c) Determine the policies and measures necessary to protect, promote, improve and maintain the health and well-being of the population



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CHAPTER 3

NATIONAL HEALTH

General functions of national department

21. (1) The Director-General must-

- (a) Ensure the **implementation of national health policy** in so far as it relates to the national department; and
- (b) Issue guidelines for the implementation of national health policy.

(2) The Director-General must, in accordance with National Health Policy-

- (a) Liaise with National Departments in other countries and **with international agencies**, including-
 - e.g. WHO on Global Strategies aimed at reducing the burden of Non Communicable Diseases
- (b) **Issue and promote adherence to, norms and standards on health matters**, including-
 - Nutritional intervention



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Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972)

Long title

- To control the **sale, manufacture importation and exportation of foodstuffs**, cosmetics and disinfectants; and to provide for matters connected herewith. (As per Amendment Act, 39 of 2007)



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Foodstuffs Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, (Act 54 of 1972):

- **Administered** mainly by the **Directorate: Food Control at national level**, (other Directorates involved: Nutrition, **Non-Communicable Diseases**, Substance Abuse)
- Control of **imported** foodstuffs by **9 provinces**
- Control of **local foodstuffs** by **52 metro/district municipalities**



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Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972)

- **'foodstuff'** means any article or substance [except a medicine as defined in the Medicines and Related Substances, 1965 (Act 101 of 1965)] ordinarily **eaten or drunk** by a person or purporting to be suitable, or manufactured or sold, **for human consumption**, and includes **any part or ingredient** of any such article or **substance**, or **any substance used or intended or destined to be used as a part or ingredient** of any such article or substance (definition as per Amendment Act, 39 of 2007)



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Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972)

2. Prohibition of sale, manufacture or importation of certain articles

2. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) and section 6, any person shall be **guilty of an offence-**
- (a) if he sells, or manufactures or imports for sale, any foodstuff-
 - (ii) which contains a **particular substance in a greater measure** than that **permitted by regulation.....**
 - (iii) which does not comply with any **standard of composition,** strength, purity or quality **prescribed by regulation...**



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5. False description of articles

5. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) and section 6, any person shall be guilty of an offence if he-
- (a) publishes a **false or misleading advertisement of any foodstuff**, cosmetic or disinfectant; or
 - (b) for purposes of sale, **describes any foodstuff, cosmetic or disinfectant in a manner which is false or misleading as regards its origin, nature, substance, composition, quality, strength, nutritive value or other properties or the time, mode or place of its manufacture;**



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15. Regulations

(1) The Minister may make regulations—

(a) prescribing the nature and composition of any or standards for the composition, strength, purity or quality or any other attribute of any foodstuff, or any ingredient or part of a foodstuff



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Trans-fats

- All references to trans-fats (trans-fatty acids) in the final Regulations were omitted and will be dealt with in a separate set of regulations.
- This decision is as a result of a request made by a Committee considering Private Bills of Parliament during a meeting held in 2008.
- The Committee accepted the recommendation from the Department's Directorate: Food Control, which the reduction of certain trans-fats in processed foodstuffs should be dealt with as a separate set of regulations under Act 54 of 1972.
- As a result, the Directorate has obtained support from the former Minister to continue with the process to develop a draft regulation in this regard.
- The Directorate embarked as a first step in this process, consultations with all stakeholders involved in the use and labelling of trans-fats.
- Publication of final Regulations on Trans Fats in the Government Gazette for comments happened on 17 February 2011 (R127/2011).



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Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972): Proposed New Regulations for the Reduction of Salt in certain Foodstuffs

- Specify **foodstuffs**
- Define **'Salt'** clearly
- **Set maximum levels** in specified foodstuffs
- Specify **labelling requirements**
- Determine **methodology** for analysis of **samples**



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Let there be work,
bread, water and
salt for all.

Nelson Mandela



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THANK YOU !!!



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