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LAW
of the REPUBLIC of ARMENIA

Approved by the National Assembly
on December 8, 1999

on FOOD SAFETY

Article 1. Scope of the law effect

This law shall regulate the requirements presented to the handling with food.

Article 2. Basic definitions applied for the law purposes

For the purposes of this law following basic definitions shall apply:

Consumer – means physical person that acquires the foodstuff to consume it as food.

Food raw materials - means substances of plant, animal, microbial, organic and mineral origin and water used for the foodstuff manufacturing.

Foodstuffs – means any substances intended for human consumption (including drink and chewing gum), which in the process of manufacturing were prepared from the different raw materials.

Foodstuff safety – means removal of risk for the human life and health which is conditioned by the fully compliance with provisions of sanitary rules and hygienic norms established by the fully compliance with provision of sanitary rules and hygienic norms established by state health governance bodies for the particular kind of foodstuff.

Foodstuff unfit for human consumption - means a foodstuff which is known to cause a poisoning, ill health or any other health disorder for human either directly or as a result of continued consumption.

Foodstuff handling – means foodstuff manufacturing, processing, preparation, importation, exportation, provision of, labeling, packaging, parceling, advertising with marketing purposes, supply with, realization, storage, transportation, utilization.

Contaminant- means any substance that is not intentionally added to foodstuff but which present in it as a result of the handling with it or as a result of environmental contamination.

Additive - means any substance, whether or not it has nutritive value, which is not normally consumed as foodstuff by itself nor as typical ingredient of foodstuff, but is added intentionally to foodstuff for a technological purposes (including organoleptic ones)

Labeling - means any word, particular, trade mark, brand name, pictorial matter or symbol relating to a foodstuff and placed on any packaging, label, ring or collar attaching or referring to such foodstuff.

Premises intended for the food production and realization - means building, flat or part of it, any facilities and any means of transport, where the handling with foodstuffs takes place.

Article 3. Legislation on foodstuff safety

1. Legal relationships related to foodstuffs safety are regulated by this law, Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia, as well as other legal acts.

2. Should International Treaties to which the Republic of Armenia is a party establish other norms concerning foodstuffs safety than those being stipulated by this Law, the provisions of such treaties shall apply.

Article 4. Requirements to Food Realization

Foodstuff may not be realized if it

- a) contain food additives which are not permitted under Armenian legislation or if they do not comply with the allowed maximum quantities laid down in normative documents,
- b) the pesticide, veterinary drug or contaminant residues exceed the maximum quantities laid down in Armenian regulations,
- c) date of their fitness for consumption expire,
- d) appropriate hygienic conditions for their realization are not available,
- e) packaging and coming into the contact with food materials do not comply with the norms in force,
- f) does not comply with safety requirements established by normative documents.

Article 5. Hygienic requirements related to food safety

1. Handling with foodstuff shall take place in the conditions complying with sanitary rules and hygienic norms.
2. Foodstuffs must comply with the sanitary rules and hygienic norms requirements and where such rules and regulations have not yet been issued, they must comply with the UN FAO Codex Alimentarius requirements.
3. Water used in foodstuff shall comply with normative requirements to the drinking water effective in the Republic of Armenia.
4. Premises intended for food production and realization shall be planned, located, built, equipped, maintained, cared for and used in a way that the foodstuffs prepared, stored and handled there with regard to health is not endangered, and these premises shall comply with the sanitary rules and hygienic norms for particular foodstuff, approved according to the procedure established by the government of the Republic of Armenia.
5. It is banned to use premises intended for handling with foodstuffs manufacturing for the purposes that may endanger human health.

Article 6. Requirements on food safety

1. Requirements (norms) to the foodstuffs safety shall be laid down by technical regulations, which shall be prepared by the bodies authorized by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and approved according to the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
2. Technical regulations shall be based on scientific evidence and take into account relevant international and interstate standards.
3. Requirements to foodstuffs safety shall be worked out for general issues (food additives application, limits of contaminants content, etc.), as well as for separate groups of foodstuffs.
4. Foodstuff normative documents shall include such indices and requirements, that will ensure the exact identity of given foodstuff to its production type, and control of foodstuffs shall involve such methods, by means of which the deceptions can be detected.

Article 7. Safety of imported foodstuffs

Imported foodstuff shall comply with safety norms established by the legislation of the Republic of the Armenia, and, when such norms do not exist, to the norms of international or interstate standards.

Article 8. Safety of exported foodstuffs

Foodstuffs exported from the Republic of Armenia shall comply with the norms established by the legislation of importing country and, when such norms do not exist, to the norms of international or interstate standards.

Article 9. Requirements to labeling of foodstuff realized in the Republic of Armenia

Legal entities and sole entrepreneurs producing, re-processing and packaging foodstuffs in the Republic of Armenia shall label production in Armenian language. The label shall contain the following information:

- a) name of marketed foodstuff, net weight or volume of the product if it is packaged;
- b) list of food additives in it,
- c) date of production and the expiration date,
- d) indications for use if the product may not be used properly without them (especially for medicative, dietary, baby food) and any special indications for storage and use. List of such foodstuffs shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
- e) data on producer,
- f) country of origin of foodstuffs,

- g) in the case of alcohol beverages exact percentage content of alcohol,
- h) nutrition and energetic value;
- i) bar-code;
- j) other data established by normative documents.

Article 10. Manufacturer control over the food safety

Manufacturer shall conduct control over the safety of the foodstuffs they are manufacturing according to the procedures established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 11. State control over the food safety

1. State control over the safety of foodstuff shall be conducted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia through the bodies authorized on its side.
2. Procedure of state control over the foodstuffs safety, as well as over the observance of related to it equipment technological, veterinary, phytosanitary and sanitary-hygienic norms in food handling process shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 12. Testing laboratories

1. Laboratory testing of foodstuffs safety parameters shall be realized by testing laboratories duly accredited according to the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Testing methods shall comply with Armenian national standards, and, when such standards do not exist, with relevant international or established by the health bodies standards.

Article 13. Competence of the participants of food production and realization

The rights and obligations of producers and consumers shall be established by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 14. Responsibilities for the infringement of this law

Infringes of the requirements of this law provisions shall bear responsibilities in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 15. Closing provisions

This law shall take effect four months after its promulgation.

President of the Republic of Armenia

R. Kocharyan

Yerevan
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