

**[ BFAD BUREAU CIRCULAR NO. 2007-009, October 10, 2007 ]**

**UPDATED STANDARDS FOR IODINE LEVEL OF SALTS**

I. RATIONALE

Rule VI, Section 1.a) of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of Republic Act (RA) No. 8172 also known as "An Act Promoting Salt Iodization Nationwide and for other Purposes" identifies Department of Health (DOH), as the lead agency in implementing the said Act, and that through the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), the DOH shall set and enforce standards for food-grade iodized salt and monitor the compliance thereof by the food-grade iodized salt and monitor the compliance thereof by the food-grade manufacturers/importers, distributors and traders as specified in Section 2, Rule VIII.

The Food Nutrition and Research Institute (FNRI) on 26 March 2007 referred to the BFAD its recommendation on the possible levels of iodine across distribution stages. In particular, the FNRI proposed the following standard for iodine content:

	Type of containers/packaging	
	Bulk (>2 kilograms)	Retail (<2 kilograms)
Iodine Content	40-70 mg/kg	15-40 mg/kg

Also, attached with said letter are syntheses of studies conducted in other countries that provided empirical basis for regulatory decision.

It is emphasized that lowering the standard will harmonize the iodine level with other countries, will reduce cost and will encourage compliance. Also emphasized in the attachments is the international iodine standard which is 15-20 mg/kg.

II. DIRECTIVE

In view of the foregoing considerations, and for ease of administration of regulatory standards, the BFAD hereby adopts the following standard for iodine content in pursuant of its mandate as provided for in RA 8172.

Iodine Content	20-70 mg/kg	across distribution channels, whether bulk or retail, imported or local
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