The International Special Dietary Foods Industries (ISDI) represents at Codex Alimentarius the associations of manufacturers of special dietary foods and has been actively involved in the development of relevant Codex Standards and Guidelines.

ISDI welcomes the work by Ghana to review these guidelines, but would like to understand better at this stage the consequences of the changes made in the document.

In the Current Guidelines (CAC/GL 08-1991) the following statement is mandatory: “Food to be given as a food supplement during the weaning period but not before 6 months and when nutritional requirements are not covered by locally available foods” (paragraph 9.2.1.2b).

This statement has been removed in the current proposal.

ISDI believes it is important to reintroduce a mandatory statement, as follows in a new paragraph 10.2.4.8, as an “instruction for use” in order to avoid any confusion regarding the use of the product:

“The label should also include a statement that formulated complementary foods are to be given when nutritional requirements are not covered by locally available foods in order to prevent a deterioration of nutritional status”.

This additional mandatory statement is currently in the Guidelines. It specifies the goal of the products, preventing confusion with products covered by other Codex Standards. It also provides important information to the consumer and/or health care provider.