



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Public health
GD of Preventive Medicine
Public Nutrition Department



Draft National standards for high extracted flour

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National Draft Standards

First step:

- A national food fortification workshop was organized with the participation of the following organizations to review the proposed standard with current standard:

MoPH departments (Environmental Health , Food quality control and Public Nutrition and Policy departments) , ANSA, MoCI, Ministry of Haj and religion , Ministry of Finance , Afghanistan Flour Miller Association , WHO, UNICEF, WFP and GAIN

- As the result of this workshop , all partners were in agreement to assign a technical committee to finalize the adaptation of harmonized standard

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Second step:

- The assigned national technical committee had meeting to review all the standards to finalized and approve the food fortification standards with the participation of : PND-MoPH, WHO, UNICEF, USAID, ANSA, GAIN, WFP
- The committee reviewed national standard and proposed standard by KAN
- At the end , the committee come up with the following decision

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- The standards for high extraction flour are accepted with the following micronutrients
 - Vitamin B9 (folate)
 - Vitamin B12 (cyanocobalamin)
 - Iron (NaFeEDTA)
 - Zinc (zinc oxide)
- It was agreed that the Afghanistan flour fortification standard is fully complying with WHO recommendations , the recommended number and level of micronutrient is accepted for Afghanistan

Comparison of draft National standards with proposed draft standard template developed by KAN

Afghanistan standard (high extracted)	ppm	proposed standard by KAN	ppm
Iron (NaFeEDTA)	15,0	Iron (NaFeEDTA)	15,0
Zinc (Zinc oxide)	50,0	Zinc (Zinc oxide)	30,0
Vit B ₉ (Folic acid)(folate)	1,0	Vit B ₉ (Folic acid)(folate)	1,0
Vit B ₁₂ (Cyancobalamin)	0,008	Vit B ₁₂ (Cyancobalamin)	0,008

Explanation and rationale for differences (science/evidence basis)

- Since the Afghanistan flour fortification standard is fully complying with WHO recommendations , and the proposed number of micronutrient in harmonized standard is also supporting the WHO recommendation , the committee accepted proposed standards for high extraction flour
- The current Afghanistan standard was prepared to be used for both high and low extraction flour , and the level of Zinc is calculated as the average amount for low and high extraction
- Since now there will be two standard both for high and low extraction the level of Zinc with 30 ppm was also accepted by the committee (newly proposed in harmonized standards)

Implementation timeframe

- The proposed standard is already approved by ANSA and is part of our national standard
- The standard is currently implementing as voluntary and when the food fortification regulation is finalized , it will become mandatory
- To adopt the current standard with new proposed one (changing the level of Zinc from 50ppm to 30ppm only), the standard will send officially by MoPH to ANSA for final process
- The ANSA is responsible to finalize and disseminate the final adopted standard for implementation

**Thanks ,
Better future and better coordination**

