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Report Highlights:

Effective February 1, 2010 it is mandatory for all wheat flour and vegetable oils imported or locally produced to be fortified with micro nutrients. This is in accordance with a legislative Instrument (Act 523) enacted by the Government of Ghana in November 6, 2009.

General Information:

In November 6, 2009 the Government of Ghana (GOG) passed a Legislative Instrument (Act 523) to make it mandatory for all wheat flour and vegetable oils imported or locally produced to be fortified with micro nutrients effective February 1, 2010 (Gazette No. 92). This was done in order to address nutrient deficiencies in the country. As a result manufacturers and importers of wheat flour and vegetable oils are advised to adhere to the Ghana Standards as follows:

- All wheat and vegetable oils (locally produced and/or imported) are to be fortified in accordance to the following Ghana Standards:
 - i. GS 811: 2006 Cereals and Pulses-Specification for fortified strong wheat flour

- ii. GS 812: 2006 Cereals and Pulses-Specification for fortified soft wheat flour
 - iii. GS 813: 2006 Animal and Vegetable fats and oils- Specification for fortified named vegetable oils
- All Fortificant premix for the fortification of the above named food stuffs should conform to the Ghana Standards listed below:
 - i. GS 809: 2006 Standard specification for fortificant premix for wheat flour
 - ii. GS 810: 2006 Standard specification for fortificant premix for vegetable oil

These standards mandate that animal and vegetable oils be fortified with Vitamin A (blend of Vitamin A and D3) with a quantity of 10.0 mg/kg. They also mandate that strong and soft wheat flour be fortified with Vitamin A, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12, Thiamine, Riboflavin, Niacin, Iron and Zinc and other ingredients including Pyridoxine, L-Ascorbic acid, Azodicarbonamide and Sulphur Dioxide.

Mandated fortification of these two products would be the first of its kind in Ghana. In June 2007, some wheat millers received three months free supply of micronutrients for the fortification of flour from the GOG. As a result of this and public awareness created in past years, some wheat millers and vegetable oil producers in Ghana are already fortifying their products (FAIRS report 2008 & 2009). Despite this, the industry believes that mandated fortification, when fully implemented, would add substantial costs to the production of flour and vegetable oils.