



Indian Standard IS 14433:2022 - Infant Milk Substitutes - Specification

Though mother's breast milk is always the best source of nutrition for infants, it is important to emphasize that infant milk substitutes are not a replacement for breast milk, but rather a complement or alternative in certain situations. Though not comprehensive such situations may involve few such as Inability to breastfeed, insufficient breast milk, premature babies having difficulty breastfeeding or digesting breast milk, Food allergies/intolerances or Adopted babies and meant to be used under the guidance of a doctor or healthcare professional.

According to the Indian Standard IS 14433:2022 Infant milk substitutes are available in two types of products namely Infant Milk Food and Infant Formula. Though both are breast milk substitutes proven to be suitable for infant feeding, Infant Milk Food is the product based on milk and Infant Formula is based on milk and other ingredients such as edible vegetable oils rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids etc.

The Indian Standard, IS 14433:2022, specifies requirements for the Infant milk substitutes including its production, quality, and packaging under hygienic conditions as per IS 2491. This standard aims to ensure uniformity and safety by setting clear guidelines for the properties and testing of infant milk substitutes. Key specifications include sensory tests, total protein, milk protein, milk fat, total fat carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals and Microbiological Requirements. Further, requirements for food additives are also specified for Infant formula and no food additives, starch or added antioxidant is allowed for infant milk food. Moisture levels are restricted to ensure stability while microbiological safety limits are defined to control bacteria, yeast, mold, and pathogens. Additionally, limits for heavy metals, toxins and other contaminants are specified to mitigate health risks.

Packaging clause mentions requirements vouch for packing the product in hermetically sealed, clean and sound metal containers or in a flexible pack made from paper, polymer and/or metallic film so as to protect it from deterioration with mandatory labelling indicating product name, information on nutrition and energy, manufacturer, expiry date etc. Testing and sampling procedures are detailed for consistency and compliance, ensuring that products meet both nutritional and safety standards.

The latest version (second revision) harmonizes the IS with the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, ensuring alignment with food safety laws and the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.