

European Union comments on
Codex Circular Letter CL 2022/57/OCS-NFSDU
Proposed Draft Guidelines for Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods at Step 8

European Union Competence
European Union Vote

General comments

The European Union (EU) would like to thank South Africa, Senegal and Uganda for their work on the draft Guidelines for Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods.

As explained on previous occasions, the EU supports the completion of the work on these guidelines on Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) without any delay. The EU also notes that the text of the draft guidelines reflects what was agreed during the last Committee meeting. The EU therefore agrees with the text of the draft Guidelines and considers that the text is ready for adoption at Step 8.

Specific comments

The EU has some minor editorial comments on the text, which are as follows:

- The footnotes in the main document as well as in the Annex would need to be renumbered (as there is no footnote 1).
- In section 5, first paragraph, a hyphen would need to be added to the word "energy" to clarify that the phrase refers to energy-dense foods:

“RUTF are made of ingredients embedded in a lipid-rich matrix e.g. paste or biscuit, resulting in an energy- and nutrient-dense food.”

- In paragraph 6.4, the abbreviation "GUL" would need to be inserted, for easier reference to the Annex:

6.4 Vitamins and Minerals

“RUTF should contain the Vitamins and minerals presented in the Annex: Nutritional Composition of RUTF. RUTF should comply with the minimum and maximum or guidance upper levels (GUL) in the Annex.”

In the Annex, minor editorial changes are suggested to the footnotes on Vitamin A and vitamin D, to properly reflect the terminology and relationships between conversion factors:

ANNEX

Footnote 1:

1 μ g RE = 3.33 IU Vitamin A = 1 μ g trans retinol. Retinol contents shall be provided by preformed **vitamin A** (retinol), while any contents of carotenoids should not be included in the calculation and declaration of vitamin A activity.

Footnote 2:

1 μ g **calciferol** = 40 IU vitamin D.