

THE NATIONAL LAW REVIEW

WHO Offers Plan to Eliminate Industrially-Produced Trans Fatty Acids

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

- One week after suggesting that adults and children reduce their intake of *trans* fatty acids to less than 1% of total energy intake (see our [May 8, 2018 blog](#) for details), the World Health Organization (WHO) released a plan aimed at eliminating industrially-produced *trans* fatty acids from the global food supply. The plan, [REPLACE](#), is in the form of a step-by-step guide.
- REPLACE consists of six steps:
 - RReview dietary sources of industrially-produced *trans* fats and the landscape for required policy change
 - Promote the replacement of industrially-produced *trans* fats with healthier fats and oils
 - Legislate or enact regulatory actions to eliminate industrially-produced *trans* fats
 - Assess and monitor *trans* fats content in the food supply and changes in *trans* fat consumption in the population
 - Create awareness of the negative health impact of *trans* fats among policy makers, producers, suppliers, and the public
 - Enforce compliance of policies and regulations
- WHO estimates that *trans* fat leads to more than 500,000 deaths of people from cardiovascular disease each year. WHO is calling on governments to use the REPLACE action package to achieve the elimination of industrially-produced *trans* fatty acids from the global food supply, which was identified as one of the priority targets of WHO's strategic plan, the draft 13th [General Programme of Work](#) (GPW13). As part of the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals, the global community has committed to reducing premature death from noncommunicable diseases by one-third by 2030.
- As previously reported on this blog, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a final determination on June 16, 2015, revoking the GRAS status for partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) based on the link between *trans* fats and health risks. The compliance date is June 18. FDA has in presentations indicated that recalls of products containing PHO's will not be required where the products were introduced in interstate commerce before that date ([IEG Policy](#) - subscription required). Agency officials promise further clarification will also be provided shortly.



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