

Decisions

National Food Safety Authority

Decision of the Board of Directors No. (1) of the Year 2023

On

The Mechanism for Dealing with Used Food Oils, Fats, and Grease, their Mixtures and Waste Used in Food Production

The Board of Directors (BOD),

After reviewing Law No.48 of the Year 1941 on Suppression of Fraud and Deception;
Law No. 10 of the Year 1966 on Food Control and Handling Regulation, and the amending laws thereto;

Law on National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) enacted by Law No. 1 of the Year 2017;

Law Regulating Waste Management issued by Law No. 202 of the Year 2020;

The Executive Regulations Implementing the Law on NFSA enacted by Decree of Prime Minister No. 412 of the Year 2019;

The Executive Regulations implementing the Law on the Regulation of Waste Management enacted by Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 722 of the Year 2022;

Decision of the Board of Directors No. 11 of the Year 2020 on Rules Governing the Implementation of Food Safety Requirements in Food Establishments; and

The approval of NFSA/BOD in the meeting held on May 23, 2023,

Decided the following:

Article (1)

Definitions

NFSA shall mean National Food Safety Authority.

WMRA shall mean Waste Management Regulatory Authority.

Waste shall mean damaged materials, objects, or movables abandoned by their owner, whether they can be recycled or should be disposed of.

Waste Handling shall mean every process that leads to the collection, transportation, storage, treatment, or use of waste.

Recycling shall mean a process through which waste is treated in a way that allows it to be reused again for a purpose other than the one for which it was originally used.

Food Handling shall mean one or more operations of food production, manufacture, offering or displaying for sale, storage, preserving, wrapping, transportation, delivery, importation, exportation, or the licensing or approval for any of these activities.

Food Oils, Fats, and Grease or their Mixtures Used in the Frying and Browning shall mean food oils, fats, or grease that are fit for human consumption; conform to the approved standards in accordance with the legislation issued in this regard; and have characteristics that make them suitable for use in the frying and browning process of foodstuffs.

Waste of Food Oils, Fats, and Grease or their Mixtures shall mean oils, fats, grease, or their mixtures resulting from food cooking, frying, browning, manufacturing, or processing - whether coming from a plant or animal origin - and have become unfit for human consumption due to the loss of their original characteristics as a result of exposure to pressure, heat, and other factors.

Free Fatty Acids (FFA) shall mean fatty acids found in oils or fats in a free state as a result of their separation by hydrolysis from the glycerides that make up food oils or fats.

Percentage of FFA shall mean the number of grams of FFA found in 100 grams of oil or fat relative to specific fatty acid, such as oleic acid.

Total Polar Materials (TPM) shall be deemed to mean one of the most important benchmarks for monitoring of quality and safety changes in oils, fats, grease, or their mixtures. The values of the TPM indicate the degree of oxidation of various chemical and physical changes in fatty substances, and show their deterioration after repeated use.

Article (2)

Food oils, fats or grease or their mixtures – when used during food handling – shall be deemed waste that negatively impacts consumer health and the environment as well as unfit for human consumption if:

1. The percentage of TPM is higher than (25%) of the weight of the oil or fat.
2. The percentage of FFA is higher than (1.25%), expressed as a percentage of oleic acid.

It can be verified using one of the international reference laboratory methods.

Article (3)

If food oils, fats, grease, or their mixtures exceed the limits set out in the previous Article, the following is prohibited:

1. Adding new food oils, fats, or grease thereto.

2. Using or adding any substances that remove visible or invisible impurities thereto for reuse in food cooking, frying, manufacturing, or processing.

Article (4)

Food establishments that have waste of food oils, fats, grease, or their mixtures shall:

1. Contract with companies licensed to handle and recycle waste in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned Law Regulating Waste Management and Executive Regulations implementing the law, and
2. Keep records and documents indicating the delivery of waste of food oils, fats, grease, or their mixtures and submit the same to NFSA upon request.

Article (5)

Companies licensed by WMRA shall transport and handle the waste of food oils, fats, grease, or their mixtures subject to the following requirements:

1. Waste is collected in tanks made of suitable materials, whether fixed or mobile.
2. A non-erasable label is put on the walls of the tank from the outside, visible from all directions, to clarify that the tank is designated for collecting waste of food oils, fats, grease, or their mixtures.

Article (6)

Food establishments and operators thereof, and any natural or legal person are prohibited from handling waste of animal-origin food oils, fats, or grease in the food handling chain in violation of the provisions of this Decision.

Article (7)

WMRA shall control waste of animal-origin food oils, fats, or grease that are collected through licensed companies; ensure that they are not transformed or divided into products that can be re-entered into the food handling chain in another form; and also ensure that they are recycled for non-food uses.

Article (8)

When exercising the competence stipulated in this Decision, both the NFSA and WMRA shall - each within its area of competence –mutually coordinate to conduct joint campaigns to ensure the application of the provisions of the relevant laws and the executive decrees related thereto, in the presence of representatives of NFSA and WMRA in order to ensure the tight control over waste of used food oils, fats, or grease, and to avoid their re-entry into the food manufacturing, processing and handling chain.

Article (9)

The present Decision shall be published in the Supplement of the Egyptian Official Gazette (AlWaqae Al-Misriyya), and shall enter into force on the day following the date of its publication, and any provision contrary to the provisions thereof shall hereby be repealed.

Dr. Tareq Elhouby

Chairman of the Board of
Directors