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[LEGAL NOTICE NO. 89]

FIJIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER COMMISSION ACT 2010

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## **Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (Price Control) (Food Item Prices) Order 2024**

IN exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 44 and 51 of the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission Act 2010, the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission, with the approval of the Minister, hereby makes this Order—

*Short title and commencement*

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (Price Control) (Food Item Prices) Order 2024.

(2) This Order comes into force on 30 September 2024.

*Interpretation*

2.—(1) In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires—

“delivery cost” means the cost incurred in the delivery of goods to a retailer’s or re-wholesaler’s premises;

“manufacturing” means the conversion of unfinished products into finished products by means of manual labour or machinery;

“offer” includes exposing, displaying or keeping goods for sale by retail;

“package” means—

- (a) the outermost receptacle, container or wrapper in which any price controlled item is encased, covered, enclosed, contained or packaged for the purpose of sale by retail; or
- (b) if for retail sale there is provided a transparent outer cover or wrapper enclosing or covering a receptacle, container or wrapper, the receptacle, container or wrapper that is enclosed or covered;

“price controlled item” means an item specified in the Schedule;

“related entity” means any of the following—

- (a) a director or a member of a Corporation that engages in a wholesale or re-wholesale trade;
- (b) a relative, spouse, or *de-facto* partner of a director or member under paragraph (a);
- (c) a relative of a spouse or *de-facto* partner of a director or member under paragraph (a);
- (d) a Corporation that is related to the Corporation under paragraph (a);
- (e) a beneficiary under a trust of which the Corporation in paragraph (a) is or has at any time been a trustee;
- (f) a relative, spouse or *de-facto* partner of such beneficiary;
- (g) a relative of a spouse or *de-facto* partner of such beneficiary;
- (h) a Corporation, one of whose directors is also a director of the Corporation under paragraph (a); or
- (i) a trustee of a trust under which a person is a beneficiary, where the person is a related entity of the first mentioned body because of any other application of this definition;

“re-wholesaler” means any person who purchases goods from a wholesaler for resale to a consumer;

“total into-store cost for pricing” means the cost calculated in accordance with the formula and provision as determined by the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission;

“trader” means any person who in connection with any business carried on by that person, sells, has sold, or proposes to sell any good, or who supplies or carries on any service; and

“VAT” means Value Added Tax.

(2) A reference in this Order to the cost to a trader of any good or service includes any delivery cost properly incurred by the trader and not otherwise included in the calculation of the cost and is a reference to the lesser of the following—

- (a) the cost to the trader, as evidenced by the invoice of the transaction; or
- (b) the cost which would probably have been incurred for the provision of the same goods and services under similar conditions in the ordinary course of business, had the goods or services been obtained from an independent person usually engaged in the business of providing those goods or services.

(3) In the case of an importer of goods into Fiji, the total into-store cost for pricing formula applies whether or not the importer takes physical possession of the goods.

(4) For the purposes of this Order, goods are deemed to be sold when possession of the goods has been taken by the purchaser and not otherwise.

(5) For the purposes of this Order, Fiji Dairy Limited is not deemed to be a wholesaler.

*Extent of control*

3.—(1) For the purposes of this Order, the prices charged by a manufacturer within Fiji, in so far as they concern goods manufactured, are not regarded as wholesale or retail prices.

(2) The specific details of the ingredient, flavour, weight, quantity and packaging in the Schedule are subject to the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission's listing.

*Maximum wholesale price*

4.—(1) The maximum wholesale price of any price controlled item is fixed at the sum of the following—

- (a) the total into-store cost for pricing of the good of the wholesaler;
- (b) the delivery cost incurred by a wholesaler may also be charged if that charge is stated separately in the invoice provided at the time of sale; and
- (c) the mark-up on the total into-store cost for pricing plus a delivery cost incurred up to an amount no greater than the wholesale percentage or rate prescribed in the Schedule.

(2) This Order does not apply to a wholesaler or a related entity of a wholesaler that retails goods.

(3) The cost and maximum wholesale price under paragraph (1) are determined by the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission upon the submission of all documentary evidence of the costs incurred by the wholesaler and may only be charged after approval from the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission.

*Maximum re-wholesale price*

5.—(1) The maximum re-wholesale price of any price controlled item is fixed at the sum of the following—

- (a) the total into-store cost for pricing of the good of the re-wholesaler;
- (b) the delivery cost incurred by a re-wholesaler may also be charged if that charge is stated separately in the invoice provided at the time of sale; and

- (c) the mark-up on the total into-store cost for pricing plus a delivery cost incurred up to an amount no greater than the wholesale percentage or rate prescribed in the Schedule.

(2) This Order does not apply to a re-wholesaler or a related entity of a re-wholesaler that retails goods.

(3) The cost and maximum re-wholesale price under paragraph (1) are determined by the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission upon the submission of all documentary evidence of the costs incurred by the re-wholesaler and may only be charged after approval from the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission.

*Maximum retail price*

6.—(1) The maximum retail price of any price controlled item is fixed at the sum of the following—

- (a) the total into-store cost for pricing of the good to the retailer or in the case of an importer who sells by retail, the total into-store cost for pricing; and
- (b) the mark-up on that cost of an amount no greater than the retail percentage or rate prescribed in the Schedule.

(2) A retailer that imports goods into Fiji is prohibited from charging a mark-up on the into-store cost for importing the good or any amount stipulated in the Schedule, other than the mark-up stipulated in paragraph (1)(b).

(3) The cost and maximum retail price under paragraph (1) are determined by the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission upon the submission of all documentary evidence of the costs incurred by the retailer and may only be charged after approval from the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission.

*Packaging*

7.—(1) The maximum retail price of any price calculated in the manner prescribed in order 6 includes the cost of the packaging described in the Schedule.

(2) If a trader in edible oils repackages goods in a container supplied by the trader, the trader may make an additional charge for those containers not exceeding the higher of—

- (a) the into-store cost of the container; or
- (b) the amount which the consumer can obtain for the empty container in good condition in the open market.

(3) The weight of the packaging must not be included in the weight sold to the consumer at the price calculated in the manner prescribed in order 6.

*Prices to be marked or displayed*

8.—(1) Any person selling by retail any of the goods specified in the Schedule must cause the same to be legibly and conspicuously marked with the maximum retail price for the information of the public.

(2) In the case of any retailer of items 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 14 in the Schedule, compliance with the provisions of this Order may be effected by the display in a prominent position of a legible and conspicuous notice clearly indicating those goods to which the notice relates and the maximum retail price of the goods.

*Marking of goods*

9. A person must not—

- (a) sell by retail or offer for sale by retail any price controlled item at a price given in excess of that marked on such item, such maximum retail price having been calculated in the manner prescribed in orders 6 and 7; or
- (b) sell by retail or offer for sale by retail any price controlled item if—
  - (i) the item is not marked with its maximum retail price being calculated in the manner prescribed in orders 6 and 7; or
  - (ii) the maximum retail price has been removed, obliterated, concealed or altered other than an alteration reducing the maximum retail price shown on them.

*Records*

10.—(1) A trader dealing in a price controlled item must keep to the satisfaction of the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission the records and accounts, including stock and costing records, as are customary and proper in the type of business carried on by the trader, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing—

- (a) a wholesaler must maintain records—
  - (i) sufficient to identify the goods sold to each retailer;
  - (ii) showing the price at which those goods were sold; and
  - (iii) of the receipt of those goods into-store and the cost at which those goods were received into-store; and
- (b) any trader, whether selling by wholesale or retail, must maintain pricing records showing—
  - (i) the basis on which the selling prices are arrived at by reference to the total into-store cost for pricing calculations;
  - (ii) the basis on which all subsequent price variations are calculated by reference to the total into-store cost for pricing calculations; and
  - (iii) delivery costs.

(2) Where goods are sold by a wholesaler at a price which includes the delivery cost, the delivery cost must be stated separately in the invoice provided at the time of sale.

*VAT*

11.—(1) A trader must state VAT separately, if applicable, in the invoice provided at the time of sale.

(2) A person not registered under section 22 of the Value Added Tax Act 1991 is not entitled to deduct VAT paid on purchases and is also not entitled to charge VAT on their sales.

*Expiration of Order*

12. This Order expires on 29 September 2027 unless the Order is varied, extended or revoked.

Approved this 27th day of September 2024.

M. S. N. KAMIKAMICA  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister for Trade, Co-operatives and  
Small and Medium Enterprises

Made this 27th day of September 2024.

I. TIKODUADUA  
Chairperson  
Fijian Competition and  
Consumer Commission

SCHEDULE – PRICE CONTROLLED ITEMS  
(Order 2(1))

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Import percentage</i>	<i>Wholesale percentage</i>	<i>Retail percentage or rate</i>	<i>Packaging</i>
1(a)	Baby milk of all types (imported)	NIL	4%	7%	Packaged according to trade custom
(b)	Baby milk of all types (locally packed)	NIL	4%	7%	
(c)	Milk – powdered, evaporated or condensed (with or without other ingredients) (imported)	NIL	4%	7%	
(d)	Milk – powdered, evaporated or condensed (with or without other ingredients) (locally packed)	NIL	4%	7%	
2	Butter (imported)	NIL	10%	5%	Packaged according to trade custom
3(a)	Corned beef and corned mutton (canned) (with or without other ingredients) (imported)	NIL	4%	7%	Can be included in into-store cost
(b)	Corned beef and corned mutton (canned) (with or without other ingredients) (local)	NIL	4%	7%	
4	Dried leguminous vegetables shelled, whether or not skinned or split (imported)	NIL	5%	6%	Packaged according to trade custom
5	Edible oils of all types (imported)	NIL	4%	6%	In bulk, unless retail packaging included in total into-store cost
6	Canned fish in natural oil or tomato sauce (imported)	NIL	4%	5%	Can be included in into-store cost

7	Garlic (imported)	NIL	4%	7%	Packaged according to trade custom
8(a)	Margarine of all types (imported)	NIL	5%	8%	Packaged according to trade custom
(b)	Margarine of all types (local)	NIL	5%	8%	
9(a)	Milk – liquid (imported)	NIL	4%	7%	Packaged according to trade custom
(b)	Milk – liquid (local)	NIL	NIL	8%	
10	Onions (imported)	NIL	4%	8%	Packaged according to trade custom
11	Potatoes (imported)	NIL	4%	8%	Packaged according to trade custom
12(a)	Rice (imported, grown and milled in Fiji)	NIL	4%	6%	Packaged according to trade custom
(b)	Rice – white or polished of all types (imported)	NIL	4%	6%	
13	Salt (imported)	NIL	4%	6%	Packaged according to trade custom
14(a)	Sugar (imported)	3%	4%	10%	Packaged according to trade custom
(b)	Sugar (local – excluding ex-factory)	NIL	4%	10%	
15(a)	Tea leaves of all types (imported)	NIL	4%	6%	Packaged according to trade custom
(b)	Tea leaves of all types (local)	NIL	4%	6%	