



NIGERIA DATA PROTECTION COMMISSION

2. THE NIGERIA DATA PROTECTION COMMISSION ISSUES NIGERIA DATA PROTECTION ACT GENERAL APPLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTIVE (GAID) 2025

Recently, the Nigeria Data Protection Commission issued the Nigeria Data Protection Act General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID) 2025. The GAID 2025 aims to provide guidance around the processing of personal information, given advancements in technology. It aims to ensure adequate national protection for data and create certainty around the legal obligations associated with data processing.

The GAID 2025 represents a significant step in Nigeria's data protection landscape. It provides direction to ensure the privacy and security of personal data in our increasingly digital world. However, its effectiveness will be driven by proper implementation and adaptation to the ever-evolving digital landscape.

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS, REDUCE COST OF HEALTHCARE EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLES AND PROMOTE LOCAL INVESTMENTS

In June 2024, President Bola Tinubu signed an Executive Order to introduce zero tariffs, excise duties, and Value Added Tax (VAT) on specialised machinery, equipment and pharmaceutical raw materials to bolster local production of essential healthcare products. By that Order, the government aims to lower the production costs, making healthcare products more affordable for Nigerians. The Order called for collaboration among the Ministries of Health, Finance, Industry, Trade and Investment to develop a Harmonized Implementation Framework for the efficient implementation of the Order.

Pursuant to that call, the Federal Ministry of Finance on 5th March 2025 issued Guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the Presidential Executive Order. In furtherance of the Presidential Executive Order, the Guidelines enumerates the critical raw material for manufacturing pharmaceutical products that are exempted from payment of import duty and Value Added Tax (VAT). It also stipulates the duration of the tax relief. Additionally, it contains the names of the manufacturers who are to benefit from the fiscal incentives provided by the Executive Order.

The implementation guidelines and the Presidential Executive Order both align with the broader Presidential Initiative for Unlocking the Healthcare Value Chain, approved in October 2023.

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3. NAFDAC DIETARY SUPPLEMENT REGULATIONS, 2025

The NAFDAC Dietary Supplement Regulations, 2025 provides a robust framework for regulating all manufactured and imported dietary supplements sold in Nigeria. The regulations provide safety and quality requirements for dietary supplements manufactured, imported, advertised or sold in Nigeria.

The regulations further provide labelling requirements for dietary requirements to enable consumers make informed choices. The regulations prohibit the manufacture, import, sale, advertisement of any dietary supplement that is not registered in line with its provisions. There are penalties for the contravention of any provision of the regulations.



4. MANDATORY INCLUSION OF BIOEQUIVALENCE DATA IN DOSSIER SUBMISSIONS

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has introduced new regulations to ensure the quality and safety of health products. By these regulations, manufacturers must now provide bioequivalence (BE) study reports for products that do not qualify for biowaivers. The BE study reports are to show that their generic drugs have similar bioavailability and therapeutic effects as the original branded medicines. This is to ensure that affordability does not compromise quality.

By ensuring that generic drugs are bioequivalent to their branded counterparts, NAFDAC is fostering trust in locally manufactured pharmaceuticals, reducing the prevalence of substandard and counterfeit drugs, and improving healthcare outcomes.

5. CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY

The Federal Government, through the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), has developed a policy plan to implement a Catastrophic Health Insurance scheme. This initiative will support patients with end-stage renal diseases, sickle cell disease, and cancers. The scheme will derive its funds from the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) and other funding mechanisms, ensuring financial protection for patients with severe health conditions.

The NHIA, with the support of the Federal Ministry of Health, will implement the Catastrophic Health Insurance once the initiative is commenced.

6. NAFDAC'S HONEY REGULATIONS 2025

On April 2, 2025, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) formally presented the Honey Regulations 2025. The Regulations aims to ensure the safety, quality, and authenticity of honey consumed in Nigeria. It establishes comprehensive guidelines for honey production, packaging, labeling, advertisement, storage, and distribution.

The Regulations further prescribes punitive measures in form of fines and imprisonment for violation of its provisions.



7. NAFDAC'S BREAD REGULATIONS 2025

The Bread Regulations aims to ensure the safety, quality, and nutritional value of bread produced, imported, or sold in Nigeria. It provides guidelines for bread manufacturing and distribution to safeguard consumer health and promote compliance with global food safety benchmarks. It contains key provisions around fortification of flour, ingredients for bread and prescribes the quality criteria for bread.



8. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO HOLD A DIALOGUE ON POWER IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

The Federal Government has announced plans to host a national stakeholders' dialogue to address the challenges of exorbitant energy cost and the lack of power supply in the Federal Tertiary Health Institutions. The goal of the dialogue is for stakeholders to generate innovative solutions to improve energy reliability and reduce operational costs in healthcare facilities across the nation.

Further to the announcement, the Honourable Minister of State of Health and Social Welfare, Dr Iziaq Salako has inaugurated a committee to plan and prepare for the dialogue.

9. SUGAR CONFECTIONERY REGULATIONS 2025

The Sugar Confectionery Regulations 2025 is a robust framework designed to regulate the production, labeling, packaging, and advertising of sugar-based confectionery products in Nigeria. It applies to food products primarily made from sugar, glucose, sorbitol, or other sweetening substances. This includes hard candy, soft candy, nougats, marzipans, chewing gum, and cake decorations but excludes chocolate confectionery, caffeinated products, and frozen confectioneries.



10. IBRAHIM OLORIEGBE'S APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY (NHIA)

President Bola Tinubu has appointed Dr Ibrahim Yahaya Oloriegbe as Chairman of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA). As an experienced medical professional and seasoned legislator, Dr Oloriegbe brings an extensive background in healthcare and legislative experience to the role, having served as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and also led the Joint National Assembly Committee on Health.



11. NAFDAC'S CANNED FISH REGULATIONS 2025

The Canned Fish Regulations 2025 apply to all canned fish manufactured, imported, exported, advertised, sold, or distributed in Nigeria. They provide detailed guidelines for raw materials, processing, packaging, labeling, hygiene of canned fish, and penalties for non-compliance.

12. NAFDAC'S MALT DRINKS REGULATIONS 2025

The Malt Drink Regulations 2025 provides the framework for the regulation of malt drink manufactured, imported, exported, advertised, sold, displayed for sale, distributed, or used in Nigeria. The Regulations specify the registration requirement for all malt drinks in the country. It also specifies the labelling requirements, ingredients and contaminant levels.



13. NAFDAC'S RECALL, DISPOSAL AND HANDLING OF UNWHOLESOME AND ADULTERATED FOOD PRODUCTS 2025

The Recall, Disposal and Handling of Unwholesome and Adulterated Food Products 2025 aim to protect public health by ensuring the swift removal of unsafe food products from the market. The regulations apply to all food products manufactured, imported, exported, advertised, sold, or distributed in Nigeria that fail to meet safety standards due to contamination, adulteration, defective packaging, or other health risks. It establishes clear guidelines for voluntary and non-voluntary recalls while outlining disposal protocols for unsafe food products.

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