

## **Press release No.1**

### **Due to the lack of supply notebooks, The Ministry of Domestic Trade announces measures for the annotation of food products in January and February 2023**

The Ministry of Domestic Trade (MINCIN), through an official document, announced on December 26, 2022, that due to the “delay in the manufacture of control booklets by the food product industry,” it will not be possible to deliver the rationing booklets in eight of the sixteen provinces of Cuba. Therefore, the fully affected provinces will be Mayabeque, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spíritus, Ciego de Ávila, and Granma. In contrast, Havana, Pinar del Río, and Santiago de Cuba will be partially affected.

Furthermore, the document sent to “State Directors of Commerce and Directors of Business Groups” of the provinces, as mentioned earlier, informs that, due to the delay in the production of rationing booklets, it will be necessary to establish a “transitory” procedure for annotation of the products of the basic regulated basket. This delay, they explain, is due to “financial limitations that caused delays in the importation of raw materials for making the booklets” and that this led to “significant delays” in the production and distribution of rationing booklets for the year 2023.

As last year, people will have to register 2023 food entries in the 2022 rationing booklets. The use of the 2022 booklet, according to this procedure, will be adjusted to record the products of the new year on other pages. Distributors will annotate, in the right column, on page 11, the quantities provided of meat, milk, and dry products of the regulated family basket, reflecting the name of the product in the ‘quantity’ column and, in the ‘date’ column, the received quantity of the product, indicating the total number of each household consumers. Likewise, the bread entries will be registered on page 19, marking the amount and date. Fuel supplies will be recorded on the same page 2, clarifying the date and quantity. As with fuels, the annotation of 2023 medical diets will go on the corresponding page. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (PLG), one of the energy sources for food preparation, will be validated through the sales vouchers issued on the date of acquisition.

In the last section of the procedure, the MINCIN indicates that the distributors will update the booklets before March 30, 2023.

FMP draws attention to the persistence of shortages of “raw materials,” justified as “financial problems” in 2021 and 2022. In the first case, the justification for the deficit was due to the lack of inputs produced by the economic situation during the pandemic; in the latter, because of the “blockade.” This situation will end up affecting, once again, the consumers of the essential products of the family basket, who, after the Ordering Task and the severe shortage of food, have been increasingly dependent on the rationing booklet. In this equation, most of the population with less purchasing power, without sources of income from remittances or access to MLC currency, will find themselves in serious vulnerability. FMP continues to warn about the severe consequences that this type of situation has when it comes to guaranteeing a due right to food for the population in Cuba.