

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
OTTAWA, CANADA, 9 - 12 MAY 2000**

**PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THE TERM
“VEGETARIAN”**

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

COMMENTS FROM:

SWEDEN

**PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THE TERM
“VEGETARIAN”****GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3****SWEDEN:**

Sweden is of the opinion that there is no need to elaborate guidelines for special terms such as “vegetarian”. The Codex General Guidelines on Claims are sufficient, especially section 5.1 (iii): (“Terms such as “pure”, “fresh”, “home made” when they are used should be in accordance with the national practices in the country where the food is sold.”) and section 5.1 (vi) (“Claims which highlight the absence or non-addition of particular substances to food may be used provided that they are not misleading and providing that the substance is one which consumers would normally expect to find in the food”.)

However, if special guidelines are to be elaborated, Sweden considers that, if the term “vegetarian” is used alone it shall exclude all animal ingredients, including honey, dairy foods and eggs. If animal ingredients - such as milk and milk products, eggs or honey - are used the term “vegetarian” should be accompanied by a relevant prefix such as “lacto-vegetarian”.