

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
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ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 3

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Thirty-second Session
Montréal, Canada, 10 – 14 May 2004

CONSIDERATION OF LABELLING PROVISIONS IN DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS

(Fish and Fishery Products, Fruits Juices, Fats and Oils, Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses)

A. COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS¹

Draft Standard for Salted Atlantic Herring and Salted Sprat (At Step 8)

6. LABELLING

In addition to the provisions of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985, Rev. 1-1991) the following specific provisions apply:

6.1 NAME OF THE FOOD

6.1.1 The name of the product shall be ...-salted herring or ...- salted sprat in accordance with the law and custom of the country in which the product is sold, in a manner not to mislead the consumer.

6.1.2 In addition the label shall include other descriptive terms that will avoid misleading or confusing the consumer.

6.2 LABELLING OF NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS

Information specified above should be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the food, lot identification, and the name of and address of the manufacturer or packer or importer as well as storage instructions shall always appear on the container.

However lot identification, and the name and address may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with accompanying documents.

B. *AD HOC* INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICES²

Draft General Standard For Fruit Juices And Nectars (At Step 7)

7. LABELLING

In addition to the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985, Rev. 1-1991), the following specific provisions apply:

7.1 CONTAINERS DESTINED FOR THE FINAL CONSUMER

¹ 26th Session, 13-17 October 2003, ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendix II

² Third Session, 6-10 May 2003, ALINORM 03/39A, Appendix II

7.1.1 The Name of the Product

The name of the product shall be the name of the fruit used as defined in Section 2.2. The fruit name shall be filled in the blank of the product name mentioned under this Section. These names may only be used if the product conforms to the definition in Section 2.1 or which otherwise conform to this Standard.

7.1.1.1 Fruit Juice defined under Section 2.1.1

The name of the product shall be “_____ juice” or “juice of _____”.

7.1.1.2 Concentrated Fruit Juice defined under Section 2.1.2

The name of the product shall be “concentrated _____ juice” or “_____ juice concentrate”.

7.1.1.3 Water Extracted Fruit Juice defined under Section 2.1.3

The name of the product shall be “water extracted _____ juice” or “water extracted juice of _____”.

7.1.1.4 Fruit Purée defined under Section 2.1.4

The name of the product shall be “_____ purée” or “Purée of _____”.

7.1.1.5 Concentrated Fruit Purée defined under Section 2.1.5

The name of the product shall be “concentrated _____ purée” or “_____ purée concentrated”.

7.1.1.6 Fruit Nectars defined under Section 2.1.6

The name of the product shall be “_____ nectar” or “nectar of _____”.

7.1.1.7 Where products defined under Section 2.1 are mixed or blended with the defined products made from different kinds of fruit, the product name shall include “mixed” or “blended” or other similar descriptive words or name indicating the product is not made from a single fruit.

In the case of fruit juice products (as defined in Section 2.1) manufactured from two or more fruits, the product names should be supplemented by a list of the fruits used in descending order of proportion by weight (m/m) of the fruit juices or fruit purée included. However, in the case of products manufactured from three or more fruits, the indication of the fruits used may also be replaced by the words “several fruits” or a similar wording or by the number of fruits.

7.1.1.8 For fruit juices, fruit nectars and mixed fruit juice/nectar, if the product contains or is prepared from concentrated juice and water or the product is prepared from juice from concentrate and directly expressed juice or nectar, the words “from concentrate” or “reconstituted” must be entered in conjunction with or close to the product name, standing out well from any background, in clearly visible characters, not less than 1/2 the height of the letters in the name of the juice.

7.1.2 Additional Requirements

The following additional specific provisions apply:

7.1.2.1 For fruit juices, fruit nectars, fruit purée and mixed fruit juices/nectars/purées, if the product is prepared by physically removing water from the fruit juice in an amount sufficient to increase the Brix level to a value at least 50% greater than the Brix value established for reconstituted juice from the same fruit, as indicated in table of the Annex, it shall be labelled “concentrated”.

7.1.2.2 For products defined in Sections 2.1.1 to 2.1.5, where one or more of the optional sugar or syrup ingredients as described in Section 3.1.2 (a) and (b) are added, the product name shall include the statement called “sugar(s) added” after the fruit juice or mixed fruit juice’s name. When sweeteners as listed in Section 4.7 are employed as substitutes for sugars in fruit nectars and mixed fruit nectars, the statement, “with sweetener(s),” shall be included in conjunction with or in close proximity to the product name.

7.1.2.3 Where concentrated fruit juice, concentrated fruit purée, concentrated fruit nectar or mixed concentrated fruit juice/nectar/purée is to be reconstituted before consumption as fruit juice, fruit purée, fruit nectar or mixed fruit juices/nectars/purées, the label must bear appropriate directions for reconstitution on a volume/volume basis with water to the applicable Brix value in the Annex for reconstituted juice.

7.1.2.4 Distinct varietal denominations may be used in conjunction with the common fruit names on the label where such use is not misleading.

7.1.2.5 Fruit nectars and mixed fruit nectars must be conspicuously labelled with a declaration of “juice content ___%” with the blank being filled with the percentage of purée and/or fruit juice computed on a volume/volume basis. The words “juice content ___%” shall appear in close proximity to the name of the product in clearly visible characters, not less than 1/2 the height of the letters in the name of the juice.

7.1.2.6 An ingredient declaration of “ascorbic acid” when used as an antioxidant does not, by itself, constitute a “Vitamin C” claim.

7.1.2.7 Any added essential nutrients declaration should be labelled in accordance with the *Codex General Guidelines on Claims* (CAC/GL 1-1979, Rev. 1-1991), *Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985, Rev. 1-1993) and the *Codex Guidelines for Use of Nutrition Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997).

For fruit nectars in which a sweetener identified in Section 4.7 has been added in order to replace wholly or in part the added sugars or other sugars or syrups, including honey and/or sugars derived from fruits as listed in Sections 3.1.2 (a) and (b), any nutrient content claims related to the reduction in sugars should conform to the *Codex General Guidelines on Claims* (CAC/GL 1-1979, Rev. 1-1991), *Codex Guidelines for Use of Nutrition Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) and *Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985, Rev 1-1993).

7.1.2.8 A pictorial representation of fruit(s) on the label should not mislead the consumer.

7.1.2.9 Where the product contains added carbon dioxide the term “carbonated” or “sparkling” shall appear on the label near the name of the product.

7.1.2.10 Where tomato juice contains spices and/or aromatic herbs in accordance with Section 3.1.2(f), the term “spiced” and/or the common name of the aromatic herb shall appear on the label near the name of the juice.

7.1.2.11 Pulp and cells added to juice over that normally contained in the juice shall be declared in the list of ingredients. Aromatic substances, volatile flavour components, pulp and cells added to nectar over that normally contained in the juice shall be declared in the list of ingredients.

7.2 NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS

Information for non-retail containers not destined to final consumers shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, net contents and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor and/or importer, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container, except that for tankers the information may appear exclusively in the accompanying documents.

However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor and/or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

C. COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS³

Draft Standard for Fat Spreads and Blended Fat Spreads (At Step 6)

7. LABELLING

The product shall be labelled in accordance with the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (Ref. CODEX STAN 1-1985, Rev. 1-1991; Codex Alimentarius, Volume 1A), Codex Guidelines on the Use of Nutrition Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997) and other relevant food labelling guidelines (Codex Alimentarius, Volume 1A). The product designations should be translated into other languages in a meaningful way and not strictly word by word.

7.1 Name of the Food

The name of the food to be declared on the label shall be as specified in Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2.

[For item 3.1.2.2, the name of the product may incorporate the name of the fats and oils in a generic or specific manner.]

³ 18th Session, 3-7 February 2003, ALINORM 03/17, Appendix IV

7.1.1 In accordance with requirements acceptable in the country of retail sale, fat spreads defined in section 3.1.1.2 with a fat content of less than 80% may incorporate the term “margarine” in the name of the food, provided that the term is qualified to make clear the lower fat content. Fat spreads with a fat content of 39 to 41% may be designated as “Minarine” or “Halvarine”.

7.2 Labelling of Non-Retail Containers

Information on the above labelling requirements shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the food, lot identification and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer shall appear on the container.

However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

7.3 Declaration of Fat Content

7.3.1 The product shall be labelled to indicate fat content in a manner found acceptable in the country of sale.

7.3.2 The milk fat content of blended spreads (3.1.2) shall be indicated in a manner that is clear and not misleading to the consumer.

D. COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES⁴

1. Proposed Draft Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements (At Step 5)

5. Labelling

5.1 Vitamin and mineral supplements are labelled according to the Codex Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Codex-Stan 1-1985, Rev. 1-1991) as well as according to the General Guidelines on Claims (CAC/GL 1-1979).

The name of the product shall be “food supplement” with an indication of the category(ies) of nutrients or of the individual vitamin(s) and/or mineral(s) contained in the product as the case may be.

5.3 The amount of the vitamins and minerals present in the product should be declared in the labelling in numerical form. The units to be used should be units of weight consistent with the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling.

5.4 The amounts of the vitamin and minerals declared should be those per portion of the product as recommended for daily consumption on the labelling [and if different, the amount per single use].

5.5 Information on vitamins and minerals should also be expressed as a percentage of the nutrient reference values mentioned, as the case may be, in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling.]

5.6 The label must indicate the recommendations on how to take the product (quantity, frequency, special conditions).

5.7 The label shall contain advice to the consumer not to exceed the maximum one-day amount

5.8 The label should not state or imply that supplements can be used for the replacement of meals or a varied diet.

5.9 The label shall contain a statement that the product should be stored out of reach of young children.

2. Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Infant Formula [and Formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants] (At Step 5)

9. LABELLING

In addition to the requirements of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985 (Rev. 1-1991), the following specific provisions apply:

⁴ 25th Session, 3-7 November 2003, ALINORM 04/27/26, Appendices IV, V and VI

9.1 THE NAME OF THE FOOD

The text of the label and all other information accompanying the product shall be written in the appropriate language.

9.1.1 The name of the product shall be either "Infant Formula" or any appropriate designation indicating the true nature of the product, in accordance with national usage.

9.1.2 The sources of protein in the product shall be clearly shown on the label.

9.1.3 If cow's milk is the only source of protein, the product may be labelled "Infant Formula Based on Cow's Milk".

9.1.4 A product which contains neither milk or any milk derivative shall be labelled "contains no milk or milk products" or an equivalent phrase.

9.1.5 [No health claims shall be made regarding the dietary properties of the product.]

9.1.6 [Products containing not less than 0.5 mg Iron (Fe)/ 100 kilocalories shall be labelled "Infant Formula with added Iron"].

Or

[Products containing less than 0.5 mg Iron (Fe)/ 100 kcal shall be labelled with a statement to the effect that when the product is given to infants over the age of four months, their total iron requirements must be met from other additional sources.]

9.2 List of Ingredients

9.2.1 A complete list of ingredients shall be declared on the label in descending order of proportion except that in the case of added vitamins and added minerals, these ingredients shall be arranged as separate groups for vitamins and minerals, respectively, and within these groups the vitamins and minerals need not be listed in descending order of proportion.

9.2.2 The specific name shall be declared for ingredients of animal or plant origin and for food additives. In addition, appropriate class names for these ingredients and additives may be included on the label.

9.3 Declaration of Nutritive Value

The declaration of nutrition information shall contain the following information in the following order:

- (a) the amount of energy, expressed in kilocalories (kcal) and/or kilojoules (kJ), and the number of grammes of protein, carbohydrate and fat per 100 grammes of the food as sold as well as per 100 milliliter of the food ready for use, when prepared according to the instructions on the label.
- (b) the total quantity of each vitamin, mineral, choline as listed in paragraph 3.1.2 and any other ingredient as listed in paragraph 3.2 of this Standard per 100 grammes of the food as sold as well as per 100 milliliter of the food ready for use, when prepared according to the instructions on the label.
- (c) In addition, the declaration of nutrients in a) and b) per 100 kilocalories (or per 100 kilojoules) is permitted.

9.4 DATE MARKING AND STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

9.4.1 The date of minimum durability (preceded by the words "best before") shall be declared by the day, month and year in uncoded numerical sequence except that for products with a shelf-life of more than three months, the month and year will suffice. The month may be indicated by letters in those countries where such use will not confuse the consumer.

In the case of products requiring a declaration of month and year only, and the shelf-life of the product is valid to the end of a given year, the expression "end (stated year)" may be used as an alternative.

9.4.2 In addition to the date, any special conditions for the storage of the food shall be indicated if the validity of the date depends thereon.

Where practicable, storage instructions shall be in close proximity to the date marking.

9.5 INFORMATION FOR USE

9.5.1 Directions as to the preparation and use of the food, and its storage and keeping after the container has been opened shall appear on the label or on the accompanying leaflet. When in liquid form, infant formula may be used either directly or prepared with safe water before feeding according to directions for use. In powdered form infant formula also requires safe, and previously boiled water for preparation.

9.6 ADDITIONAL LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

9.6.1 Labels should not discourage breastfeeding. Each container label shall have a clear, conspicuous and easily readable message which includes the following points:

- a) the words "important notice" or their equivalent;
- b) The statement "Breastmilk is the best food for your baby" or a similar statement as to the superiority of breastfeeding or breastmilk.
- c) a statement that the product should only be used on advice of a independent health worker as to the need for its use and the proper method of use;
- d) instructions for appropriate preparation;
- e) a warning against the health hazards of inappropriate preparation; and a warning that formula remaining after each feeding should be discarded.

9.6.2 The label shall have no pictures of infants and women nor any other picture or text which idealizes the use of infant formula. The label shall have graphics illustrating the method of preparation of the product and methods of feeding.

9.6.3 The terms "humanized", "maternalized" or other similar terms shall not be used.

9.6.4 Information shall appear on the label to the effect that infants should receive supplemental foods in addition to the formula, from an age that is appropriate for their specific growth and development needs, as advised by an independent health worker, and in any case from the age over six months.

9.6.5 The products shall be labelled in such a way as to avoid any risk of confusion between infant formula, follow-up formula, and formula for special medical purposes.

9.6.6 [No [nutrition and] health claims shall be made regarding the dietary properties of the product.]

3. Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (at Step 5)

8. LABELLING

8.1.1 The requirements of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985 (Rev. 1-1991), Codex Alimentarius Volume 1) apply to this standard. With specific reference to section 7 of that Standard national jurisdictions may further restrict the use of pictorial devices.

or

[No nutrition and health claims shall be made regarding the dietary properties of the products covered by the provisions of this standard.]

8.1.2 Any indication required in the labelling should be made in the appropriate language(s) of the country in which the product is sold.

8.2 THE NAME OF THE FOOD

The name of the food shall be "Dry Cereal for Infants (and/or Young Children)", "Rusks for Infants (and/or Young Children)" or "Biscuits (or "Milk Biscuits") for Infants (and/or Young Children)" or "Pasta for Infants (and/or Young Children)", or any appropriate designation indicating the true nature of the food, in accordance with national legislation.

8.3 LIST OF INGREDIENTS

8.3.1 A complete list of ingredients shall be declared on the label in descending order of proportion except that in the case of added vitamins and minerals, these shall be arranged as separate groups for vitamins and

minerals, respectively, and within these groups the vitamins and minerals need not be listed in descending order of proportion.

8.3.2 The specific name shall be declared for ingredients and food additives. In addition, appropriate class names for these ingredients and additives may be included on the label.

8.4 DECLARATION OF NUTRITIVE VALUE

8.4.1 The declaration of nutrition information shall contain the following information in the following order:

- (a) The energy value, expressed in kilocalories (kcal) and kilojoules (kJ), and the amount of protein, carbohydrate and fat expressed in grammes (g) per 100 g or 100 ml of the food as sold, and where appropriate, as per specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption;
- (b) The average amount of each vitamin and mineral for which specific levels are defined in section 3.6 and 3.7 expressed in numerical form per 100g or 100 ml of the food as sold and, where appropriate, as per specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption;
- (c) Any other nutritional information required by national legislation.

8.4.2 The labelling may bear the average amount of the vitamins and minerals when their declaration is not covered by the provisions of section 8.4.1 (b) expressed in numerical form per 100g or 100 ml of the product as sold and, where appropriate, per specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption.

8.5 DATE MARKING AND STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

8.5.1 The date of minimum durability (preceded by the words "best before") shall be declared by the day, month and year in uncoded numerical sequence except that for products with a shelf-life of more than three months, the month and year will suffice. The month may be indicated by letters in those countries where such use will not confuse the consumer. In the case of products requiring a declaration of month and year only, and the shelf-life of the product is valid to the end of a given year, the expression "end (stated year)" may be used as an alternative.

8.5.2 In addition to the date, any special conditions for the storage of the food shall be indicated if the validity of the date depends thereon.

8.5.3 Where practicable, storage instructions shall be in close proximity to the date marking.

8.6 INFORMATION FOR UTILIZATION

8.6.1 Directions as to the preparation and use of the food, and its storage and keeping before and after the container has been opened, shall appear on the label or on the accompanying leaflet.

8.6.2 For products covered by 2.1.1, directions on the label shall state "Milk or formula but no water shall be used for dilution or mixing" or an equivalent statement.

8.6.3 The presence or absence of gluten should be indicated on the label.

8.6.4 The label shall indicate clearly from which age the product is recommended for use. This age shall not be less than six months for any product.. In addition, the label shall include a statement indicating that the decision when precisely to begin complementary feeding, including any exception to six months of age, should be made in consultation with a health worker, based on the individual infant's specific growth and development needs. Additional requirements in this respect may be made in accordance with the legislation of the country in which the product is sold.

8.7 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The products covered by this standard are not breast-milk substitutes and shall not be presented as such.