

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

CX/FL 07/35/2

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Thirty-fifth Session

Ottawa, Canada, 30 April - 4 May 2007

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE

A) MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

A. DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Annex 2 Permitted Substances: Table 3

The Commission noted that the 58th Session of the Executive Committee, while conducting the critical review, had recommended returning the Draft Amendment to Step 6 as it had not been circulated for comments at Step 6 prior to the Committee due to its late availability. Some delegations indicated that they had additional comments and supported further consideration of the Draft Table in the Committee. The Commission agreed to return the Draft Amendment to Step 6 for comments and further consideration in the Committee on Food Labelling. The Delegations of the European Community and the United States expressed their reservation on this decision.

This matter will be considered under **Agenda Item 4a**).

Proposed Draft Definition of Trans-Fatty Acids (Amendment to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling)

The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Definition as proposed.

General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars: labelling provisions related to processing aids

The Commission adopted the labelling provisions in the footnote to the list of processing aids, thereby allowing the inclusion of these processing aids in the Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (ALINORM 06/29/41, paras.74-78).

B. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE COMMISSION

Draft Revised Standards for Cheddar (C-1) and Danbo (C-3)- Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Edam (C-4), Gouda (C-5), Havarti (C-6), Samsø (C-7), Emmentaler (C-9), Tilsiter (C-11), Saint-Paulin (C-13), Provolone (C-15), Cottage Cheese (C-16), Coulommiers (C-18), Cream Cheese (C-31), Camembert (C-33), Brie (C-34) and Proposed Draft Standard for Mozzarella

The Commission noted that all labelling provisions referred to the Committee on Food Labelling had been endorsed, with the exception of Section 7.2 "Country of Origin". It further noted that the Committee on Milk and Milk Products in response to a request from the CCFL had provided justification to the CCFL to explain the inclusion of this provision.

Some delegations expressed the view that all the individual standards should be adopted at Step 8 with the exception of Section 7.2, which should be referred back to the CCFL for further discussion, while other delegations supported the adoption of the standards in their entirety as proposed by the CCMMP and were of the opinion that country of origin labelling was essential to avoid misleading the consumer.

The Delegation of the United States of America, supported by other delegations, noted that the Commission had decided not to undertake new work on the revision of the country of origin labelling provisions in the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Food and pointed out that country of origin labelling was not motivated by food safety concerns and that consumer information issues were matters for national legislation, as provided for in section 4.5.1 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.

The Delegation of Switzerland expressed the opinion that more general, health-based standards should be developed, in accordance with the recommendations of the Codex Evaluation and the Strategic Framework, to limit the number of individual cheese standards and proposed to return these standards to Step 6. The Delegation of Sudan supported the declaration of country of origin and the indication of the animal species to avoid misleading the consumer.

After lengthy discussion on this provision, the Commission agreed to adopt the proposed draft standards at Step 5, move them to Step 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7 and to retain all standards at Step 8 pending further discussion of Section 7.2 “Country of Origin” by the next session of the Committee on Food Labelling, with the understanding that the 30th Session of the Commission revisit the matter, taking into account the view of the CCFL on Section 7.2. The Commission further noted that in its deliberations on Section 7.2, the CCFL would take into consideration the fact that the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods had provisions for Country of Origin which referred to the country of manufacture while in many of the individual cheese standards, generic regional names were specified (ALINORM 06/29/41, paras. 83-89).

Note: The proposed section on country of origin in the above draft standards reads as follows:

7.2 Country of Origin

The country of origin (which means the country of manufacture, not the country in which the name originated) shall be declared. When the product undergoes substantial transformation¹ in a second country, the country in which the transformation is performed shall be considered to be the country of origin for the purpose of labelling.

C. GENERAL DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION

The 29th Session of the Commission endorsed the proposal of the 57th Session of the Executive Committee to recommend to Codex Committees and Task Forces:

- To prioritize work when the agenda of the Committee includes many items of work;
- To invite all Chairpersons, or host countries for adjourned committees, to provide their comments on the items of work that have been under consideration for more than five years; and
- To inform the Executive Committee and the Commission of the proposed timeframe for completion of all items that have been approved as new work prior to 2004 (ALINORM 06/29/41, para. 8 and ALINORM 06/29/3, paras. 64-65)

The Committee is therefore invited to propose a timeframe for all items under consideration in the Step Procedure.

⁴ For instance, repackaging, cutting, slicing, shredding and grating is not regarded as substantial transformation