

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4(C)

CX/FL 10/38/7-ADD.1

E

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION
QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, MAY 3 - 7, 2010**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY ON DIET,
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH:
PROPOSED DRAFT CRITERIA/PRINCIPLES FOR LEGIBILITY AND
READABILITY OF NUTRITION LABELS
(CL 2009/15-FL, ALINORM 09/32/22 – APPENDIX III)**

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

COMMENTS FROM:

**KENYA
MALI**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY ON DIET,
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH:
PROPOSED DRAFT CRITERIA/PRINCIPLES FOR LEGIBILITY AND
READABILITY OF NUTRITION LABELS
(CL 2009/15-FL, ALINORM 09/32/22 – APPENDIX III)**

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

KENYA:

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Specific Comments

Kenya prefers option one because it is more focused on nutritional labelling than option 2 which talks of ‘necessary information’ as opposed to nutrition labelling therefore we recommend the square brackets in option One(1) to be removed.

Option One

(1) Nutrition labelling shall be applied in such a manner that it will not become separated from the container.

(2) Nutrition labelling shall be clear, prominent, indelible, and readily legible by the consumer under normal conditions of purchase and use.

(3) Where the container is covered by a wrapper, the wrapper shall carry nutrition labelling or the existing nutrition labelling on the inner container shall either be readily legible through the outer wrapper or not be obscured by the outer wrapper.

(4) Consistent with Section 8.2 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods, if the language on the original label is not in accordance with national legislation, a supplementary label containing the nutrient declaration in the required language may be used instead of relabeling. In the case of either relabeling or a supplementary label, the information provided must be in accordance with national legislation and should accurately reflect that in the original label. Principles 1, 2 and 3 above should be applied to any supplementary nutrition labels.]

Option Two

~~[In the case of nutrition labelling whether applied on a mandatory or voluntary basis, the principles of Sections 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.3 and 8.2 of the Codex GSLPF should be applied.]~~

~~-Where the container is covered by a wrapper, the wrapper shall carry the necessary information or the label on the container shall be readily legible through the outer wrapper or not be obscured by the outer wrapper 8.1.3~~

~~-8.2 If the language on original label is not acceptable to the consumer for whom it is intended supplementary label containing the mandatory information in the required language may be used instead of relabeling.~~

~~-In case of either relabeling or supplementary label the mandatory information provided shall be fully and accurately reflect that in the original label~~

SPECIFIC ELEMENTS OF PRESENTATION

Specific Comment

Kenya prefers Format in ‘option One’ because it entails what is needed by consumers which is information and legibility of the contents.

(5) These recommendations related to specific elements of presentation are intended to facilitate and enhance the legibility of nutrition labelling. However, national authorities may determine any alternative means of nutrition presentation taking into account approaches and practical issues at the national level and based on the needs of their consumers.

(6) Option One

Format: Nutrient content should be declared in a numerical, tabular format. Consideration may be given to other formatting elements to enhance legibility. Where there is insufficient space for a tabular format, nutrient declaration may be presented in a linear format.]

~~**[Option Two**~~

~~**Format:** Nutrient content should be declared in a numerical, tabular format. Consideration may be given to other formats that enhance prominence. Where there is insufficient space for a tabular format, nutrient declaration may be presented in a linear format.]~~

(7) Order –

(i) Nutrients should be declared in a specific order developed by competent authorities and should be Consistent across food products.]-

Comment

We agree with the statement above (i) under ‘Order’ and propose that the opening and closing square bracket be opened.

(8) **Font** – A minimum font type size should be considered. A significant contrast should be maintained between the text and background so as to be clearly visible.

Comment

We agree with the statement above under ‘Font’ and propose that the opening and closing square bracket be opened.

(9) **Language** – The language of nutrient declaration should be according to national legislation in the country of sale. See also (4) above.

Comment

We have no objection to this clause (9) above on ‘language’ and we would like to support it as is.

(10) Numerical Presentation

The numerical presentation of nutrient content should be in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.4 of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2 - 1985).

EXEMPTIONS AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

[(11) Small packages may be exempt from nutrient declaration, provided no nutrition or health claim is made in the labelling of that food. Small packages are defined as packages with a largest printable surface of less than XX cm² (TO BE DETERMINED)].

[(12) To accommodate nutrition labelling of small packages, national authorities may also consider the declaration of a shortened, minimum set of key nutrients.]

Comment

Kenya suggest that there is need to define the ‘sizes of small packages’ to enable us comment on this clause, as indicated in clause 11 mentioned above under “Exemptions and Special provision”.

[OTHER PROVISIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Specific Comment

We suggest that the opening and closing square brackets be opened and propose that the word ‘**should**’ should be used in the text instead of ‘**may**’ in the fourth bullet to enhance compliance.

- The contents of only those nutrients that are listed in section 7(i) may be declared within the nutrition table.

Other substances or ingredients should not be declared within the nutrition table.

- In the case where a product is subject to labelling requirements of a Codex Standard, the provisions for nutrient declaration set out in that Standard should take precedence.
- Where the amount is considered to be insignificant, there should be a possibility to declare the value as “0” or “traces” or “as defined at the national level” or to exempt from nutrition labelling.
- Where a food should be reconstituted with water before consumption, nutrient content **should may** relate to the proportion of the food as so reconstituted. Similarly, where the food is labelled with directions that it should be drained before consumption, the label **should may** indicate that nutrient content relates to the drained food.
- With respect to small packages, consideration may be given to allowing the label to provide a website or phone number where consumers can obtain the nutrition information, or requiring that nutrition information be provided on or in connection with the display of the food or provided to the purchaser upon request.
- Alternative means of presentation of nutrition information may be considered for refillable glass containers.
- Packages with shapes such that a label cannot be affixed may provide nutrition labelling through the use of tags, provided the tags are affixed for the life of the product and do not easily fall off or separate from the container.]

MALI:

Mali supports applying the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged foods.