

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5(A)**

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

**E**

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

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

**GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND  
MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS:  
ANNEX 1 (INCLUSION OF ETHYLENE FOR OTHER PRODUCTS)  
(CL 2009/15-FL, ALINORM 09/32/22 – APPENDIX IV)**

**GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 6**

**COMMENTS FROM:**

**CANADA  
CHILE  
KENYA  
MALI**

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**GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 6**

**CANADA:**

Canada is pleased to provide the following comments on Appendix IV of ALINORM 09/33/22 concerning the expansion of the use of ethylene for post-harvest ripening to products other than kiwifruit and bananas.

The current provision for ethylene appears in Annex 1; Principles of Organic Production, Part C; Handling, Storage, Transportation, Processing and Packaging, paragraph 82. Ethylene is the only substance specifically identified in Annex 1. The other substances permitted for the production of organic foods appear in the tables in Annex 2. These tables are not all inclusive or exclusive, and are not a finite regulatory tool, but provide advice to governments on internationally agreed inputs. The review criteria in Section 5.1 of the Guidelines should be the primary determinant for acceptability or rejection of substances.

Canada believes that the use of ethylene should be limited to those uses where there is adequate justification against the criteria in section 5.1 of the Guidelines.

**1. Ripening of Tropical Fruit:**

Canada supports the use of ethylene for the ripening of tropical fruit for the same reasons it is permitted for kiwi and bananas, as outlined in the Proposal for Inclusion of Ethylene to Ripen Organic Kiwifruit and Other Fruit (CX/FL 06/34/11).

**2. Degreening of Citrus Fruit:**

Canada supports the use of ethylene for degreening of citrus fruit to mitigate the impacts of early harvest to avoid fruit fly damage.

**3. Sprout Inhibitor for Onions and Potatoes:**

To expand the use of ethylene to onions and potatoes as a sprout inhibitor would require adequate justification based on the principles in 5.1 of the Guidelines. Without this justification, Canada does not support the use of ethylene as a sprout inhibitor for onions and potatoes at this time.

**4. Induction of Flowering:**

Canada notes that the use of ethylene for the induction of flowering in pineapple is a pre-harvest application and cannot be included in paragraph 82, which is about post-harvest use. The Committee could consider placing it in Annex 2, Table 2, section IV. "Other".

## CHILE:

Chile is in support of the work regarding this issue, deleting the square brackets in the proposal as long as special care is given to each food for which it is used, verifying its safety and justifying its use for the targeted purposes (accelerating ripening).

## KENYA:

### Annex 1 - Principles of Organic Production

#### C. HANDLING, STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING

82. The integrity of the organic product must be maintained throughout the processing phase. This is achieved by the use of techniques appropriate to the specifics of the ingredients with careful processing methods limiting refining and the use of additives and processing aids. Ionizing radiation should not be used on organic products for the purpose of pest control, food preservation, and elimination of pathogens or sanitation. Ethylene may be used for ripening of kiwi fruit, bananas, [other products to be determined].

#### Comment

**Kenya proposes that:**

**For inclusion of ethylene to be used in other products other than kiwi and banana, there is need to have scientific justification for those products.**

## MALI:

Mali supports the use of ethylene for the ripening of kiwis, bananas, and other products such as mangoes.