

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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AGENDA ITEM NO.6

CX/FL 09/37/10-ADD.1

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION
CALGARY, CANADA, MAY 4 - 8, 2009**

**LABELLING OF FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS OBTAINED THROUGH
CERTAIN TECHNIQUES OF GENETIC MODIFICATION/GENETIC
ENGINEERING:
PROPOSED DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LABELLING OF FOODS
AND FOOD INGREDIENT OBTAINED THROUGH CERTAIN TECHNIQUES OF
GENETIC MODIFICATION/GENETIC ENGINEERING
(CL 2008/11-FL, ALINORM 08/31/22 – APPENDIX VII, & CL 2007/38/FL)**

COMMENTS FROM:

INTERNATIONAL BABY FOOD ACTION NETWORK (IBFAN)

**LABELLING OF FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS OBTAINED THROUGH CERTAIN TECHNIQUES OF GENETIC MODIFICATION/GENETIC ENGINEERING: PROPOSED DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LABELLING OF FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENT OBTAINED THROUGH CERTAIN TECHNIQUES OF GENETIC MODIFICATION/GENETIC ENGINEERING:
(CL 2008/11-FL, ALINORM 08/31/22 – APPENDIX VII, & CL 2007/38/FL)**

INTERNATIONAL BABY FOOD ACTION NETWORK (IBFAN):

6 (a) Draft Amendments to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Definitions (Step 7)

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

For the purpose of the General Standard:

“Food and food ingredients obtained through certain techniques of genetic modification/genetic engineering” means food and food ingredient composed of or containing genetically modified/engineered organisms obtained through modern biotechnology, or food and food ingredients produced from, but not containing genetically modified/engineered organisms obtained through modern biotechnology. ”

The term modern biotechnology is a euphemism for genetically modified/engineered food or food ingredients and will confuse the consumer. It would be far simpler to retain the terms genetic modification/genetic engineering, as the consumer understands these terms.

The term modern is highly promotional, has no meaning in this context and is not a scientific term that would enhance the definition.

Item 6 (b) Proposed Draft Recommendations for the Labelling of Foods and Food Ingredients Obtained Through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering (At Step 3 of the Procedure)

IBFAN is pleased with the progress made by the Working Group held in Ghana. Progress made will enable the CCFL to move forward with the need to ensure consumer's rights to full information regarding the method of production labelling, specifically for genetically modified/genetically engineered food and food ingredients.

IBFAN supports the statement as set out in Chapeau 1 for the following reasons:

1. It recognizes the importance of labelling as a means to inform consumers to enable them to make food choices according to their needs and interests based on health, cultural, environmental or religious interests.
2. The statement opens the way for further discussion and decisions on the actual mechanisms to incorporate the labelling of GM/GE foods and food ingredients into the Codex standards and related texts.

3. It gives flexibility to member states to take approaches to meet the needs and interests of their consumers.