

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2023/94-FL
November 2023

TO: Codex Contact Points

Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: Request for comments/information on the establishment of a definition of added sugars

DEADLINE: 26 January 2024

BACKGROUND

1. During the 47th Session of the Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL47), there was a discussion about the need to establish a definition for added sugars to be incorporated into the *Guidelines on Nutritional Labelling* (CXG 2-1985), as well as considering the inclusion of a declaration of added sugars in Section 3.2 on Listing of nutrients. It was emphasized that harmonizing the definition and declaration of added sugars in nutritional labelling is important to provide consumers with accurate information about sugar content in foods, enabling them to make healthier choices and encouraging manufacturers to follow recommendations for reducing the amount of added sugars in their products.

2. CCFL47 agreed that Costa Rica would prepare a discussion paper on the definition for added sugars and that:

- a. The discussion paper would take into account the need for including sugar on the nutrient declaration list; and
- b. A Circular Letter (CL) would be issued to request for information to support the development of the discussion paper ([REP23/FL](#), para. 179).

3. This CL poses questions to support the abovementioned.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

4. Codex members and observers are invited to submit their comments on the questions in this Circular Letter (see Appendix attached). The responses to this questionnaire will serve as input for the preparation of the discussion paper for CCFL48.

5. The questions are uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, as per the guidance below.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

6. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.

7. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting "Enter" in the "My reviews" page, available after login to the system.

8. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>.

9. For any query on OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

Appendix

(Replies to this questionnaire should be submitted directly in OCS as instructed above)

APPENDIX I

Q1: Does your country have a definition of added sugars? If YES, please provide the definition and its reference (links, documents and other information you consider necessary).

YES NO UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Comments

Q2: Is the declaration of added sugars content voluntary or mandatory in your country? Please explain.

YES, VOLUNTARY YES, MANDATORY NO OTHER

Comments

Q3: How is the declaration of added sugars verified or planned to be verified in your country? If you have information in this regard, please detail the methodology used or to be used and provide a link to it.

Comments

Q4: Do you think it is important for Codex to define the term "added sugars"? Please explain.

YES NO OTHER

Comments

Q5: If your answer to question 4 is YES, which committee do you think, under its mandate, should develop such a definition? Please explain.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) OTHER

Comments

Q6: Do you think Codex should include added sugar on the nutrient declaration list? If yes, should it be mandatory or voluntary? Please explain.

YES, VOLUNTARY YES, MANDATORY NO OTHER

Comments

Q7: Do you see any barriers or limitations to the development of the definition of "added sugars" under the CCFL? Please explain.

YES

NO

Comments

Q8: Provide additional suggestions that Codex should take into consideration regarding the definition of "added sugars".

Comments