

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 4

FL/46 CRD22  
Original language only

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-sixth Session

Virtual

27 September - October 1 and 7, 2021

### CONSIDERATION OF LABELLING PROVISIONS IN DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS (ENDORSEMENT)

(Comments from Nepal, IBFAN ENCA)

#### Nepal

Nepal is strongly against any business practice that is not conducive to the health of its citizen, particularly children. Hence, it has developed its labelling and packaging regulation which prohibits the cross promotion of infant formula and any form of follow-up formula. Nepal is also aware that the WTO also believes in the health of people being of high importance when considering business. In addition, Nepal has been part of the CCNFSDU discussions on this text over a number of years and the text has been agreed as a compromise.

Nepal, therefore, strongly recommends retaining the text for endorsement which reads: “*The labelling of follow-up formula for older infants shall not refer to infant formula, Drink/Product for young children with added nutrients or Drink for young children, or formula for special medical purposes intended for infants, including numbers, text, statements, or images of these products.*”

#### IBFAN ENCA

1 CCNFSDU labelling proposals for [Follow-up formulas and Drinks for Young Children](#)

#### IBFAN PROPOSAL

Follow-up formulas and Drinks for Young Children are used and regulated as breastmilk substitutes in many countries so the standard should be aligned as far as possible with the WHO policy, including the ban on cross promotion, a deceptive tactic that misleads parents

**9.6.5** *The labelling of the product as defined in Section 2.1 shall not refer to OR RESEMBLE infant formula, follow-up formula for older infants, or formula for special medical purposes intended for infants, including numbers, text, statements, or images of these products.*

Alternatively:

*The labelling of the product as defined in Section 2.1 shall not CROSS PROMOTE infant formula, follow-up formula for older infants, or formula for special medical purposes intended for infants, including numbers, text, statements, or images of these products.*

PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR READY TO USE THERAPEUTIC FOODS (RUTF)

The current draft guidelines refer only to the weak labelling safeguards for Foods for Special Medical Purposes (FSMPs) - products that are on general sale. Claims are MARKETING TOOLS that are not appropriate for therapeutic foods. WHA Resolution 63 forbids health or nutrition claims on foods for infants and young children.

***IBFAN PROPOSAL for RUTF label:***

***Section 12 must include the following text:***

It is recommended that the labelling of RUTF for children from 6 to 59 months with SAM be in accordance with the Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Foods for Special Medical Purposes (CXS 180-1991), the General Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Pre-packaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CXS 146-1985), ~~and~~ Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CXG 2-1985)..***and the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CXG 23-1997) that include a prohibition on the use of nutrition and health claims for foods for infants and young children.***

There should be the following prominent WARNINGS:

***This product must only be used for the therapeutic treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition, strictly under medical supervision***

***Potable drinking water must be available for children receiving RUTF treatment.***

***Not for general sale***