



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-eighth Session

Quebec City, Canada

27 October – 1 November 2024

CONSIDERATION OF LABELLING PROVISIONS IN DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS

(ENDORSEMENT)

(CCSCH, CCFO and CCLAC)

Background

According to the Procedural Manual¹, Codex general subject committees, CCFL inclusive, may establish general provisions on matters within their terms of reference. These general provisions should only be incorporated into Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise.

The Procedural Manual also states that: “the Commodity committees shall refer any exemptions from, or additions to, the reference to the *General standard for the labelling of prepackaged foods* (CXS 1-1985) as indicated in the section on food labelling in the *Format for Codex Commodity Standards* to the Committee on Food Labelling for endorsement”.

Furthermore, the labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346 –2021). The section may also contain provisions which are exemptions from, additions to, or which are necessary for the interpretation of the General Standard in respect of the product concerned provided that these can be justified fully.²”

Action requested

In line with the terms of reference of CCFL and the above requirement, CCFL48 is requested to consider and endorse the labelling provisions forwarded by the following Codex Committees: CCSCH, CCFO and CCLAC, as presented in the Appendix I with the links to relevant standards uploaded on the Codex website.

APPENDIX I: The labelling provisions forwarded to CCFL for endorsement

APPENDIX II: Replies from CCSCH7 to the questions from CCFL47

¹Section II: Elaboration of Codex texts: Relations between Commodity Committees and General Subject Committees
Procedural Manual (latest edition)

² Section II: Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related texts – Format for Commodity Standards: Section on Labelling
(Procedural Manual (latest edition)

APPENDIX I**THE LABELLING PROVISIONS FORWARDED TO CCFL FOR ENDORSEMENT****A. CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS (CCSCH)****Note 1:**

CCSCH6 forwarded to CAC45 the standards for dried floral parts – saffron for adoption at Step 8. CAC45 adopted the standard at Step 8 pending endorsement of the labelling provisions by CCFL.

CCFL47 endorsed all the labelling provisions in the standard except the country of origin (8.3.1) and the country of harvest (8.3.2). CCFL47 agreed to refer these provisions to CCSCH for reconsideration, and to request CCSCH to clarify the distinction between “country of origin” and “country of harvest”.

CCSCH7 forwarded their reply (Appendix II) to CCFL explaining the definitions as follows:

Country of Origin

(According to 4.5 of the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985)):

When a food undergoes processing in a second country which changes its nature, the country in which the processing is performed shall be considered to be the country of origin for the purposes of labelling.

Country of Harvest:

Country of harvest is the country in which the gathering of the crops takes place.

STANDARDS FOR DRIED FLORAL PARTS – SAFFRON**8. LABELLING****8.3 Country of origin and country of harvest**

8.3.1 Country of origin shall be declared.

8.3.2 Country of harvest shall be declared.

Note 2:

CCSCH7 forwarded the draft standard for dried or dehydrated roots, rhizomes and bulbs – turmeric to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8.

The labelling provisions in this standard follow the labelling provisions in other standards previously established by CCSCH and endorsed by CCFL i.e.

- *Standard for dried oregano* (CXS 342-2022)
- *Standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs: dried or dehydrated ginger* (CXS 343-2022)
- *Standard for dried floral parts: cloves* (CXS 344-2022)
- *Standard for dried basil* (CXS 345-2022)
- *Standard for dried or dehydrated garlic* (CXS 347-2022)
- *Standard for dried seeds – nutmeg* (CXS 352-2022)
- *Standard for dried or dehydrated chilli pepper and paprika* (CXS 353-2022)

DRAFT STANDARD FOR DRIED OR DEHYDRATED ROOTS, RHIZOMES AND BULBS – TURMERIC**8. LABELLING**

8.1 The products covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985). In addition, the following specific provisions apply:

8.2 Name of the product

8.2.1 The common name of the product shall be as described in Section 2.1.

8.2.2 The name of the product may include an indication of the style as described in Section 2.2.

8.2.3 Trade name, variety or cultivar may be listed on the label.

8.3 Country of origin and country of harvest

8.3.1 Country of origin shall be declared.

8.3.2 Country of harvest (optional).

8.3.3 Region of harvest and year of harvest (optional).**8.4 Commercial identification**

- Class/Grade, if applicable
- Size (optional)

8.5 Labelling of non-retail containers

The labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021).

B. CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS (CCFO)**Note:**

CCFO28 forwarded the proposed draft amendment/revision to the *Standard for fish oils* (CXS 329-2017): Inclusion of Calanus oil to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8.

In this revision, CCFO28 agreed to include the labelling provision related to astaxanthin in calanus oil so as to take into account the safe levels of intake of astaxanthin and forwarded the provision for the endorsement by CCFL.

STANDARD FOR FISH OILS (CXS 329-2017)**7. LABELLING****7.3 Other labelling requirements**

For calanus oil (Section 2.1.6), the maximum intake level of astaxanthin shall be declared if required by the country of retail sale in accordance with the acceptable daily intake established for different age groups by competent authorities.

C. FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (CCLAC)**Note:**

CCLAC23 forwarded the draft Regional Standard for Castilla lulo (naranjilla) to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8.

The labelling provisions in this standard consists of two parts (7.1 Consumer packages and 7.2 Non-retail containers) and follow the normal labelling provisions in other standards on fresh fruits and vegetables established by CCFFV and previously endorsed by CCFL.

Please note that “7.2.2 Nature of Produce” is generally described as “Name of produce” in standards established by CCFFV.

DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR CASTILLA LULO(NARANJILLA)**7. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING OR LABELLING****7.1 Consumer packages**

In addition to the requirements of the *General standard for the labelling of prepackaged foods* (CXS 1- 1985) the following specific provisions shall apply:

7.1.1 Name of produce

If the produce is not visible from the outside, each package shall be labelled as to the name of the produce and may be labelled as to name of the variety, class, size (if sized) expressed in accordance with any one of the following methods: count, size code and range, size range.

7.1.2 Origin of produce

Each package must include country of origin, and, optionally, district where grown or regional or local place name.

7.2 NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS

The labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021). In addition, the following specific requirements shall apply:

Each package must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside, or in the documents accompanying the shipment.

7.2.1 Identification

Name and address of exporter, packer and/or dispatcher. Identification code (optional).

7.2.2 Nature of produce

Name of the produce if the contents are not visible from the outside. Name of the variety (where appropriate).

7.2.3 Origin of produce

Country of origin and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name.

7.2.4 Commercial identification

- Class;
- Size (size code or weight range or count);
- Net weight (optional).

APPENDIX II**REPLIES FROM CCSCH7 TO THE QUESTIONS FROM CCFL47**

CCFL questions: Clarify the distinction between country of origin and country of harvest; provide rationale why the provision for country of harvest should be mandatory and how such a declaration would be beneficial for fraud prevention.

Country of Origin: According to 4.5 of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985):

“When a food undergoes processing in a second country which changes its nature, the country in which the processing is performed shall be considered to be the country of origin for the purposes of labelling”.

CCSCH recognizes that this definition is broad and applicable to all food commodities.

Country of Harvest: CCSCH recognizes that there is no definition for ‘country of harvest’ in Codex. However, in the glossary of terms for spices and culinary herbs, “harvest” is defined as the act or process of gathering agricultural crops. Based on this, the *“country of harvest is the country in which the gathering of the crops takes place”*.

Even though the country of origin and the country of harvest may be the same for many herbs and spices, these are two different terms. As such it will be beneficial for CCSCH to include in its glossary of terms an explanation of country of origin and/or country of harvest as it specifically applies to spices and culinary herbs. The quality characteristics of saffron vary considerably depending on the country where it has been cultivated. The labelling provisions should provide clear and reliable information to consumers.

Some operators may think that the treatment of saffron, including mixing saffron from different countries, can qualify to change the label even though this process does not change the nature of the product. Therefore, CCSCH6 recommended the standard for saffron for adoption and the provision for labelling for endorsement.