

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
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Agenda item 8

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-eighth Session

Quebec City (Canada)

October 27 - November 1, 2024

AMENDMENTS TO THE *GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS* (CX 1-1985) PROVISIONS RELATING TO CO-PRESENTATION FORMATS AND MULTIPLE PACKS

(Document prepared by Colombia)

Colombia, as Chair of the EWG, has revised the proposed draft text below, upon consideration of comments and recommendations received in response to CL 2024/56-FL as compiled in CX/FL 24/48/8-Add.1.

Edits and editorial changes are described directly in the text boxes that include the justification for the changes made.

The Committee is invited to consider the revised amendments as presented in this CRD (Appendix I)

NOTE: Text in **red bold** and ~~strikeout~~ shows proposed amendments to Appendix II of CX/FL 24/48/8 in response to comments from CX/FL 24/48/8-Add. 1.

APPENDIX I

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOODS (CXS 1-1985): PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO JOINT PRESENTATION AND MULTIPACK FORMATS

TITLE**Proposed Change:**

- Replace the term "MULTIPLE CONTAINERS" with "MULTIPACK" in the title of the document in Spanish
DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOODS (CXS 1-1985): PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO JOINT PRESENTATION AND MULTIPACK FORMATS

Justification:

To abbreviate the expression in Spanish and make it consistent with the term "multipack" and the new proposed definition of packaging.

DEFINITION OF TERMS**Proposed Change**

1. Include the terms "joint presentation" and "multipack" in the definition of "Container"

"Container" means any packaging of food for delivery to the **consumer** as a single item, whether by completely or partially enclosing the food and includes wrappers. A container may enclose several units or types of packages **of the same or different nature to be consumed together (joint presentation) or separately (multipack)**, ~~when offered to the consumer, such as multi-pack formats or joint presentations.~~

Clean version

"Container" means any packaging of food for delivery to the **consumer** as a single item, whether by completely or partially enclosing the food and includes wrappers. A container may enclose several units or types of packages **of the same or different nature to be consumed together (joint presentation) or separately (multipack)**,

- Delete the amendment to the definition of "prepackaged"

"Prepackaged" means packaged or made up in advance in a container, ready for offer to the consumer, or for catering purposes **including joint presentation and multipack formats.**

- Remove separately definitions of the terms "joint presentation" and "multipack"

~~**"Multipack format"** means that presentation that is made up of a secondary outer container and two or more units of the same or different prepackaged food, which are intended to be consumed separately. Note: For example, small packages of French fries of different flavors in a larger package.~~

~~**"Joint presentation"** means a consisting of an outer container that contains two or more units of food of different nature, which are supplemented or mixed for consumption. Note: For example, yogurt and cereal~~

Justification:

Most members supported the adjustment of the definitions section in order to give more clarity to such presentations. However, they considered that the text could be further simplified. One member suggested adjusting the definition of container, which could facilitate consensus. The adjustment in the definition of "container" allows for the elimination of both the individual definitions of each of the presentations, and the amendment in the definition of "prepackaged".

8. PRESENTATION OF MANDATORY INFORMATION

Proposed Change

1. Include an amendment to numeral 8.1.3

8.1.3. Where the container is covered by an **opaque** wrapper, the wrapper shall carry the **necessary mandatory label** information ~~or the label on the container shall be readily legible through the outer wrapper or not obscured by it.~~ **of the unit(s) inside. If the wrapper is transparent, it must be easily readable.**

Clean version

8.1.3 Where the container is covered by an **opaque wrapper**, the wrapper shall carry the **mandatory label** information **of the unit(s) inside. If the wrapper is transparent, it must be easily readable.**

- Delete numeral 8.1.3.1:

~~8.1.3.1 The list of ingredients must be included on the outer packaging of joint presentation and multipack format, when the packaging is opaque and does not allow such information to be viewed on the food it contains.~~

- Numeral 8.1.3.2 is replaced by the following proposed text (hereinafter referred to as numeral 8.1.3.1)

~~8.1.3.2 The name and address of the product packer must be included on the outer packaging of joint presentations and multipack formats when the container is opaque and does not allow such information to be viewed on the food it contains, or when it is different from the manufacturer, packer, importer or exporter of the inside products.~~

8.1.3.1 When the packer of the product in joint presentation or multipack formats is different from the manufacturer, packer, importer or exporter of the products inside, such packer name and address be included in the wrapper.

- Numeral 8.1.3.3 is replaced by the following proposed text (hereinafter referred to as numeral 8.1.3.2)

~~8.1.3.3 The date marking on prepackaged foods in joint presentation and/or multipack formats shall be that of the product with the date closest to completion. This does not exempt each of the individual products that make up the presentation from having their respective date marking.~~

8.1.3.2 The date marking on foods packaged in joint presentations and/or in multipack formats whose wrapper is opaque, shall be that of the product with the date closest to its completion. This does not exempt each of the units inside it from having its respective date marking.

Justification:

The proposed adjustment to numeral 8.1.3 allows the elimination of numeral 8.1.3.1, since it is clarified that all the information on the label (including the list of ingredients) must appear on the container when the wrapper is opaque. Adjusting the text of numeral 8.1.3.2 and 8.1.3.3 reduces repetition in the text and makes it more concise and clearer.

Proposed Change

- Elimination of the amendment to numeral 8.1.4

8.1.4 ~~The name^{*} and net content^{**} of the food shall appear in a prominent position and in the same field of vision.~~

~~^{*}It must be included in the outer packaging of the joint presentations and multipack formats, when the container is opaque and does not allow the names of the foods it contains to be legible.~~

~~^{**}In a multipack, the labelling should provide information on the net content and number of units so that the net content of the individual units and the number of units of food can be easily perceived. Preferably, the multipack would indicate the total net content. Note: The number of units per type of food that make up the multipack must be indicated next to the net content. Example: 600ml (3 units of 200ml).~~

- Include a numeral to section 4.3 Net content

4.3.4. In addition to the declaration of the net content, in the case of food packaged in multipack format, the net content of each unit and the number of units per type of food shall be indicated (Example: 600 ml (3 units of 200 ml)).

Justification

One member suggests that section 8 should be limited to information on the presentation and format of mandatory labelling information, while any specific information relating to mandatory labelling requirements should be included in section 4. This recommendation is very correct, as it clarifies doubts regarding the placement of the amendments. Therefore, the amendment to numeral 8.1.4 is eliminated and the text is adjusted to include it in section 4.3.4.

**DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED
FOODS (CXS 1-1985)- PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO JOINT PRESENTATION AND MULTIPACK FORMATS
(clean version)**

2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

"*Container*" means any packaging of food for delivery to the consumer as a single item, whether by completely or partially enclosing the food and includes wrappers. A container may enclose several units or types of packages of the same or different nature to be consumed together (joint presentation) or separately (multipack),

"*Prepackaged*" means packaged or made up in advance in a container, ready for offer to the consumer, or for catering purposes.

8. PRESENTATION OF MANDATORY INFORMATION

8.1.3 Where the container is covered by an opaque wrapper, the wrapper shall carry the mandatory label information of the unit(s) inside. If the wrapper is transparent, it must be easily readable.

8.1.3.1 When the packer of the product in joint presentation or multipack formats is different from the manufacturer, packer, importer or exporter of the products inside, such packer name and address be included in the wrapper.

8.1.3.2 The date marking on foods packaged in joint presentations and/or in multipack formats whose wrapper is opaque, shall be that of the product with the date closest to its completion. This does not exempt each of the units inside it from having its respective date marking.

8.1.4 The name and net content of the food shall appear in a prominent position and in the same field of vision.

4.3.4. In addition to the declaration of the net content, in the case of food packaged in multipack format, the net content of each unit and the number of units per type of food shall be indicated (Example: 600 ml (3 units of 200 ml)).