



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-eighth Session

Quebec City, Canada

27 October – 1 November 2024

DISCUSSION PAPER ON TRANS FATTY ACIDS

(Prepared by Canada)

INTRODUCTION

1. At the 46th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL46), the committee discussed a proposal for new work on the topic of labelling of trans fatty acids (TFAs). This discussion followed the decision by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Use (CCNFSDU) to discontinue work on establishing conditions for “free of TFAs” claim¹. CCFL46 agreed that Canada would prepare a discussion paper to outline possible new work for consideration by CCFL47, and that information would be sought through a Circular Letter (CL) to help in the development of the discussion paper. Additionally, the CCFL Chair proposed that the discussion paper also take into account the outcomes of discussions at the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO).
2. Even though CL 2022/07-FL was issued in March 2022 to help inform the discussion paper outlining potential new work to further explore labelling options to reduce TFA intake, at CCFL47, it was agreed that discussions on trans fatty acids would be deferred to CCFL48 to allow Canada to also take into account the WHO Guideline on Saturated Fatty Acids and Trans Fatty Acids² and the outcome of the discussions at CCFO28, which had not yet taken place.
3. At CCFO28, the Committee agreed to submit for approval by the 47th Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47), a proposal for new work to revise three Codex standards on fats and oils to include a prohibition on partially hydrogenated oils (PHO) and/or limits on industrially produced trans fatty acids (iTFA)³. It was also agreed to establish an electronic working group (EWG) chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia, to prepare proposed draft revisions to the three Codex standards. The report of the EWG will be made available at least three months before CCFO29, which is tentatively scheduled for 9 to 13 February 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

4. As the proposed work on TFA by the CCFO will affect the direction of a CCFL discussion paper outlining potential new work to explore labelling options to further reduce TFA intake, it is recommended that at this time, CCFL48 retain this topic in its *Inventory Table of Potential CCFL Future Work*, and consider returning to it once the CCFO work on TFA is completed.

¹ REP20/NFSDU

² Saturated fatty acid and trans-fatty acid intake for adults and children: WHO guideline. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2023. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

³ REP24/FO