

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5.1, 6, 7

FL48/CRD26

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-eighth Session

Québec City, Québec, Canada

27 October - 01 November, 2024

(Comments from Nigeria)

AGENDA ITEM 5.1: REVISION TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS (CXS 1- 1985): PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO ALLERGEN LABELLING (STEP 7)

(Prepared by the Electronic Working Group chaired by Australia and co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the United States of America)

Nigeria would like to thank the Electronic Working Group (EWG) chaired by Australia and co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the United States of America for leading the work on the revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (CXS 1-1985): provisions relevant to allergen Labelling (Step 7).

a. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Nigeria supports the definition of Food Allergen as provided in Appendix II

“Food Allergen” means a food (including ingredients, food additives and processing aids) that can elicit IgE-mediated or other specific immune-mediated reactions in susceptible individuals, usually caused by a protein or protein derivative in the food.

RATIONALE: Nigeria notes that the definition is precise and provides clarity without ambiguity in understanding the meaning.

b. SECTION 4.2.1.6

Nigeria agrees with the provision that national authorities may exempt ingredients derived from foods listed in section 4.2.1.4 and where applicable section 4.2.1.5 from being declared while noting that such exemptions shall be subject to an evaluation that should follow a weight of evidence approach that includes an exposure assessment and other established criteria from FAO and WHO (2024) Risk assessment of food allergens: Part 4: Establishing exemptions from mandatory declaration for priority food allergens.

c. SECTION 8.3

Nigeria agrees with the proposed text on the declaration of allergens in Section 8.3.2 and 8.3.2.1.

8.3.2 The specified name for the foods and ingredients in sections 4.2.1.4, 4.2.1.7 and where applicable 4.2.1.5 shall be declared in the list of ingredients or in a separate statement or in both.

8.3.2.1 If used the separate statement shall commence with the word ‘Contains’ (or equivalent word) and be placed directly under or in close proximity to the list of ingredients when present.

RATIONALE: The approach in the use of the word “contains” is currently applied in the declaration of allergenic ingredients on food products.

2. Consider whether the revision to the GSLPF (Appendix II) is ready to advance to Step 8.

Nigeria supports the advancement of the revision of the General Standard for Labelling of Pre-packaged Food (GSLPF) in Appendix II to Step 8.

3. Consider whether to provide further advice to CCFH to ensure consistency of the Code of Practice on Allergen Management for Food Business Operators (CXC 80-2020) with the proposed draft revision.

Nigeria agrees that CCFL 48 should provide further advice to CCFH to ensure consistency of the Code of Practice on Allergen Management for Food Business Operators (CXC 80-2020) with the proposed draft revision particularly in regard to relevant definitions and the lists of priority allergens.

AGENDA ITEM 6: GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF FOOD INFORMATION FOR PRE-PACKAGED FOODS TO BE OFFERED VIA E-COMMERCE

(Prepared by the Electronic Working Group (EWG) chaired by the UK and co-chaired by Japan, Chile, India and China)

Nigeria appreciates the work done by the Electronic Working Group (EWG) chaired by the UK and Co-chaired by Japan, Chile, India and China for leading the work on Guidelines on the Provision of Food information for Pre-Packaged foods to be offered Via E-Commerce (Step 7)

a. Purpose

Nigeria supports the removal of the brackets to read “the purpose of these guidelines is to ensure consumers buying pre-packaged foods via e-commerce have the information needed to make informed choices, similar to the information they would find on the physical label of the food as well as other consideration for Pre-packaged food offered for sale via e-commerce”.

RATIONALE: This would ensure that other practices not easily recognized as directly connected with the information required to make informed choices are considered.

b. SECTION 5.1

Nigeria prefers the new wording of **Option B** in appendix II which reads “It is encouraged that an indication of the minimum number of days the product will be delivered to the final consumer before the “Use-by Date”, “Expiration Date”, “Best-Before Date” or “Best Quality Before Date” be provided’

RATIONALE: Option B provides the use of language that is understandable, clearly summarizing all the required information and does not mention durability.

AGENDA ITEM 7: GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE FOOD INFORMATION IN FOOD LABELLING

(Prepared by the Electronic Working Group (EWG) chaired by Canada and co-chaired by India and New Zealand)

a. Section 7.10

Nigeria appreciates the work done by the eWG under the lead of Canada and co-chaired by India and New Zealand **in the development of the** guidelines on the use of technology to provide food information in food labelling (STEP 7).

Nigeria prefers that the bracket on "audible" be removed to read “Food information described or presented using technology shall be clear, prominent and readily legible or audible to the consumer under normal settings and conditions of use of the technological platform”

RATIONALE: The text would apply where the message is delivered in a video or with the use of other forms of audio messages.

b. Section 7.12:

Nigeria endorses the text in section 7.12 with the removal of the bracket to read “Where food information is provided using technology, it shall be provided without any additional costs to the consumer”.

c. Nigeria supports the advancement of the guidelines on the use of technology to provide food information in food labelling (Appendix II) to step 8 as a useful information source.