



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-eighth Session

Quebec City, Canada

27 October – 1 November 2024

Comments from Cabo Verde

Agenda Item n°8: AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PRE PACKAGED FOODS (CXS 1-1985): PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO JOINT PRESENTATION AND MULTIPACK FORMATS (STEP 4)

BACKGROUND

During the 44th session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL44), in the framework of future work, the Committee agreed to prepare, among other discussion documents, one on the labelling of foods in joint presentation and multipack formats under the leadership of Colombia, a country that expressed interest in the proposal of this document.

As a result, during the CCFL45, in the framework of future work, Colombia presented the first discussion paper on the labelling of foods in joint presentation and multipack formats.

At CCFL46 (Virtual), Colombia introduced the issue by describing what were considered prepackaged foods in joint presentation and multipack formats, highlighting that labelling information, such as date marking and ingredient listing of individual foods in these packaging formats could be hidden from consumers.

At CCFL47, the Committee agreed to initiate further work on the labelling of prepackaged foods in joint presentation and multipack formats and to submit the project document (REP23/FL, Appendix V) for approval by the 46th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and to establish an EWG, chaired by Colombia and co-chaired by Jamaica, working in English and Spanish, to prepare a preliminary draft text to be circulated for comments at Step 3, and for consideration by CCFL48. The EWG report would be made available to the Codex Secretariat three months prior to CCFL48.

In July 2024, comments were received from 13 Member countries (New Zealand, Norway, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, United States of America, Japan, Guatemala, Brazil, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Argentina and Iran) and five Observer Organizations (IBCA, FOOD INDUSTRY ASIA (FIA), FOODDRINKEUROPE'S, INTERNATIONAL CONFECTIONERY ASSOCIATION (ICA-IOCCC)-USA, ALAIAB (COSTA RICA).

ISSUES/KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

The EWG proposed the following amendments:

1. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

- Changes to the definitions of "Container" and "Prepackaged".
- Inclusion of the definitions of "Multipack format" and "Joint presentation" and their respective examples.

2. PRESENTATION OF MANDATORY INFORMATION

Inclusion of the following items:

- 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.
- 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.

- 8.1.3.3 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.
- 8.1.4 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).

POSITION:

Cabo Verde supports the amendments in the definition of terms. Cabo Verde also supports the amendments in the presentation of mandatory information.

RATIONALE:

Our position is motivated by the relevance and importance of the document for labelling joint presentation and multipack formats, with impacts on pursue a high level of protection of consumers' health and interests.