

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2021/20/OCS-FL
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TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: Request for comments on the Proposed Draft Guidance on the Food Information Requirements for Prepackaged Foods to be Offered Via E-Commerce

DEADLINE: 1 September 2021

BACKGROUND

1. The 45th Session of the Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL45) agreed to start new work on guidance on internet sales / e-commerce.¹ This work was approved by the CAC42².
2. CCFL45 further agreed that an EWG chaired by the United Kingdom, and co-chaired by Chile, Ghana, India and Japan would prepare a proposed draft guidance for consideration by CCFL46.³
3. The chair and co-chairs of the EWG took advantage of the additional time available due to the postponement of CCFL46 from 2020 to 2021 to run additional consultations with the EWG. Based on comments from these consultations the EWG prepared a revised set of draft guidelines which are presented in [CX/FL 21/46/7](#). The full summary and analysis are presented in CX/FL 21/46/7, Appendix I and should be taken into account when submitting comments.

Request for Comments

4. Codex members and observers are invited to:
 - 4.1 Consider the revised draft guidelines on the food information requirements for prepackaged foods to be offered via e-commerce provided in Appendix II of [CX/FL 21/46/7](#) and to comment on whether it is ready to be advanced to Step 5 for adoption by CAC44.
 - 4.2 In addition, comments are requested on the following specific points:
 - 4.2.1 Review the requirements relating to minimum durability within the draft guidance ([CX/FL 21/46/7](#), Appendix II Section 4 paragraph 3) and consider whether the requirements as given balance the needs of consumers and industry.
 - 4.2.2 Review the proposed alternative wording of sections 4 & 5 ([CX/FL 21/46/7](#), Appendix II, 'Proposed alternative wording of section 4 & 5') and consider whether:
 - 4.2.2.1 the proposed alternative wording is too significant of a departure from the current guidance.
 - 4.2.2.2 the proposed alternative wording contains information which could be included to make the current guidance more effective.
 - 4.2.3 Consider whether the issue of cross-border e-Commerce sales is outside the scope of the draft guidance and should be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS).
5. The document and questions are uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, as per the guidance below.

¹ REP19/FL, para. 91(a)

² REP19/CAC, paras 96 and 98, Appendix V

³ REP19/FL para. 91(b)

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

6. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
7. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
8. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>.
9. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.