

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2022/07-FL

March 2022

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 information on labelling options to support the reduction of trans fatty acids (TFAs)

DEADLINE: 30 April 2022

BACKGROUND

1. The 46th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL46) discussed a proposal for new work on the topic of the labelling of trans fatty acids (TFAs) as presented in a project document found in Appendix 1 in [CX/FL 21/46/12](#), as a result of a request from CCFNSDU for other Committees to consider what could be done to support the reduction of TFA intake.
2. Briefly, two aspects of new work were proposed in the [project document](#):
 - Amending the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CXG 2-1985) to require the declaration of the amount of TFA where nutrient declaration is required.
 - Amending the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985) to add a requirement that partially hydrogenated and fully hydrogenated oils be declared by their specific names (similar to Section 4.2.3.2 regarding pork fat, lard and beef fat) and to define these terms. In addition to their use for labelling purposes, the definitions would also be relevant in the context of a prohibition on partially hydrogenated oils.
3. Since there was no consensus by the Committee to undertake new work on TFAs as presented in the project document, it was agreed that:
 - a) Canada would prepare a discussion paper to outline possible new work for consideration by the next session of CCFL to further explore labelling options to reduce TFA intake;
 - b) information would be sought through a Circular Letter (CL) to help in the development of the discussion paper.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

4. In order to assist in the development of a discussion paper, Codex members and observers are invited to respond to the questions in the Appendix.
5. The aforementioned questions are uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, as per the guidance below.

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.

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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.

Appendix

(Replies to this questionnaire should be submitted through the OCS as instructed above)

Current situation in your country or region

- a) Is nutrition labelling mandatory on prepackaged foods in your country or region?

If yes, is declaring the amount of TFAs voluntary or mandatory?

Voluntary TFA declaration: Please describe the rationale for why declaring the amount of TFAs is voluntary in your country or region and indicate how frequently the declaration appears on labels, if this information is available.

Mandatory TFA declaration: Please describe the rationale for why declaring the amount of TFAs is mandatory in your country or region.

Is the declaration of TFAs always required or is the declaration mandatory only when triggered, for example by nutrition or health claims? Please describe the conditions that trigger mandatory TFA declaration.

Has the effectiveness of mandatory TFA declaration been evaluated in your country or region? If yes, please describe if/how mandatory TFA declaration has affected the formulation of products with TFAs and/or provide reports relating to the evaluation, if available.

- b) Is the declaration of ingredients mandatory on prepackaged foods in your country or region?

If yes, is declaring the degree of hydrogenation of oils (full or fully, and partial or partially) mandatory or voluntary? Please describe the rationale.

If the declaration is voluntary, please indicate how frequently it appears on labels, if this information is available.

What terms are defined in regulation for this declaration, for example “fully hydrogenated” (or “full hydrogenation”) and “partially hydrogenated” (or “partial hydrogenation”)?

Options for new work

- c) Would you support CCFL work to amend the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CXG 2-1985) to require the declaration of the amount of TFA where nutrient declaration is required? Please provide an explanation.
- d) Would you support CCFL work to amend the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985) to add a requirement that partially hydrogenated and fully hydrogenated oils be declared by their specific names and to define terms for this purpose? Please provide an explanation.
- e) Should CCFL consider new work on any other labelling option, including those identified in the Discussion paper on risk management possibilities for the reduction of trans fatty acids (CX/NFSDU 19/41/7-Rev)? If yes, please describe the option and provide an explanation of why it should be considered.