

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2022/10-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 the labelling of prepackaged foods in joint presentation and prepackaged multi-packaged foods

DEADLINE: 13 May 2022

BACKGROUND

1. During the 44th session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL44), held in Asunción, Paraguay, from 16 – 20 October 2017, as part of its future work, the Committee agreed to prepare various discussion papers, including one on labelling foods in joint presentation and multipack format under the leadership of Colombia, which expressed interest in proposing such a document.
2. At CCFL45 held in Ottawa, Ontario (Canada), from 13-17 May, 2019, Colombia introduced the first discussion paper on labelling foods for joint presentation or presented in multipack format. A summary of findings highlighted the lack of international guidelines and standardized definitions for multipack or joint presentation. As the need for new work on this issue required further consideration, Colombia suggested postponing discussions on the document until the next meeting.
3. At CCFL46, held virtually from September 27 to October 1, and on October 7, 2021, Colombia made a presentation on the subject. It described which foods are considered prepackaged in joint presentation or multipack format, emphasizing that in such formats, labelled information such as dates and lists of ingredients for individual foods could be hidden from consumers.
4. Following this discussion, the CCFL agreed to keep food labelling in joint presentation and multipack format on its list of possible areas of future work. The CCFL requested that Colombia prepare a discussion paper in order to identify gaps in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985) and/or determine where additional clarity and interpretation could be needed. To this end, a circular letter (CL) was to be issued requesting information to support the development of the discussion paper.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

5. Codex members and observers are invited to respond to the questions in this Circular Letter (see Appendix attached) and highlight any other aspects they deem relevant to the work on labelling prepackaged foods in joint presentation or multipack format.
6. The 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

7. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
8. 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.
9. 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/ocs/es/>.
10. For any query on OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

Appendix

(Replies to this questionnaire should be submitted directly in OCS as instructed above)

General

1. In your country/region, are prepackaged foods in joint presentation or multipack format defined separately from prepackaged foods? If so, how is it defined? If you do not have a definition, please indicate that in your response.
2. Is labelling for prepackaged foods in joint presentation or multipack format specified in your country/region's current /food labelling regulation?
Yes ___ Which products are regulated? _____
No ___
3. Additional comments are welcome on experiences from your national governments on proposing, implementing or enforcing regulations on the labelling of prepackaged foods in joint presentation or multipack format. (i.e. challenges faced)
4. Additional comments are also welcome on experiences and challenges by your industry on implementing or applying regulations on labelling of prepackaged foods in joint presentation or multipack format.

Scope

5. In your opinion, does the scope of the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985) include prepackaged foods in joint presentation or multipack format?
Yes___ No___
Please explain your answer. _____
6. If you answered "No" to Question 5, please explain how you think the scope of the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985) should be amended or adjusted to include prepackaged foods in joint presentation or multipack format.

Definition of Terms

7. In your opinion, are specific definitions for prepackaged foods in joint presentation or multipack format needed in the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985) for international food trade?
Yes___ No___
Please explain your answer.

8. Colombia suggests including the following in the "Definition of Terms" section of the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985) as proposed in CX/FL 21/46/11, Appendix I, 2.2 Definition of Terms:

["Multipack"]: Secondary packaging of sale, printed or transparent, specially designed to contain and exhibit a certain number of units of the same or different products, each unit contained must be individually labelled. Optionally it could contain a promotional object (which can be a food or other element).

"Joint presentation": Is one that contains two or more units of products of different nature, prepackaged individually and jointly labelled (they have a single label that relates the foods that compose it), which are complemented or mixed for consumption.]

If you answered "Yes" to question 7, please indicate whether you agree with the definitions that are proposed. If you do not agree, please suggest adjustments as you see fit.

The name of the food

9. Regarding paragraph 4.1 ("Name of the food") of the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985): do you believe these requirements apply to prepackaged foods in joint presentation or multipack format?
Yes___ No___

Please explain your answer.

10. If you answered “No” to question 9: what requirements should be added to paragraph 4.1 (“Name of the food”) of the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985) in order to include prepackaged foods in joint presentation or multipack format?

Other

11. Are there other gaps in the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985) with respect to labelling foods in joint presentation or multipack format?
12. What are other sections in the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985) that may require clarification and interpretation with respect to labelling foods in joint presentation or multipack format?