



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-third Session

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CONSIDERATION OF LABELLING PROVISIONS IN DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS (CCASIA, CCSCH, CCFFV, CCFA)

Background

According to the Procedural Manual¹, Codex general subject committees, CCFL inclusive, may establish general provisions on matters within their terms of reference. These general provisions should only be incorporated into Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise.

The Procedural Manual also states that: “the Commodity committees shall refer any exemptions from, or additions to, the reference to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985) as indicated in the section on food labelling in the *Format for Codex Commodity Standards* to the Committee on Food Labelling for endorsement”.

Action requested

In line with the terms of reference of CCFL and the above requirement, the Committee is requested to consider and endorse the labelling provisions forwarded by the following Codex Committees as presented in Appendix: CCASIA, CCSCH, CCFFV, & CCFA.

¹ Procedural Manual (24th Edition)

A. FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA (CCASIA)

Note: CAC38 adopted the draft regional Standard at Step 8, subject to the endorsement of the food labelling provisions by CCFL².

The Committee **is invited to endorse** the labelling provisions of the Standard.

Regional Standard for Non-Fermented Soybean Products³**8. LABELLING**

The product covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the latest edition of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985).

If genetically modified soybean is used in the process, consideration shall be given to the *Compilation of Codex texts relevant to the labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology* (CAC/GL 76-2011).

8.1 The Name of the Product

The product should be designated with the appropriate term in Section 2.2. Other names may be used in accordance with the law and custom of the country of retail sale and in the manner not to mislead consumers.

B. COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS (CCSCH)**Proposed Draft Standard for Cumin⁴ (at Step 5)****8. LABELLING**

8.1 The products covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985). In addition, the following specific provisions apply:

8.2 Name of the Product

8.2.1 The name of the product shall be "cumin".

8.2.2 The name of the product may include an indication of the style as described in Section 2.2.

8.3 Labelling of Non-Retail Containers

Information for non-retail containers shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

Proposed Draft Standard for Dried Thyme⁵ (at Step 5)**8. LABELLING**

8.1 The products covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985). In addition, the following specific provisions apply:

8.2 Name of the Product

8.2.1 The name of the product shall be "dried thyme".

8.2.2 The name of the product may include an indication of the species, varietal types and the style as described in Section 2.2. In case of products consisting of blends of different *Thymus* species, the name of the product may be followed by the *Thymus* species in order of descending quantity.

² REP15/CAC, para 22

³ REP15/ASIA, para 44, Appendix IV

⁴ REP15/SCH, Appendix III

⁵ REP15/SCH, Appendix III

8.3 Labelling of Non-Retail Containers

Information for non-retail containers shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

C. COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (CCFFV)

Proposed Draft Standard for Aubergines⁶ (at Step 5/8)

6. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING OR LABELLING

6.1 CONSUMER PACKAGES

In addition to the requirements of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985), the following specific provisions apply:

6.1.1 Nature of Produce

If the produce is not visible from the outside, each package shall be labelled as to the name of the produce and may be labelled as to the name of the variety and/or commercial type.

6.1.2 Origin of Produce

Country of origin⁷ and, optionally, district where grown, or national, regional or local place name.

In the case of a mixture of distinctly different varieties of aubergines of different origins, the indication of each country of origin shall appear next to the name of the variety concerned.

6.2 NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS

Each package must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside.

6.2.1 Identification

Name and address of exporter, packer and/or dispatcher. Identification code (optional).⁸

6.2.2 Nature of Produce

Name of the produce "aubergines" if the contents are not visible from the outside. Name of the variety and/or commercial type (optional).

Mixture of aubergines, or equivalent denomination, in the case of a mixture of distinctly different commercial types of aubergines. If the produce is not visible from the outside, the commercial types and the quantity of each in the package must be indicated.

6.2.3 Origin of Produce

Country of origin and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name.

In the case of a mixture of distinctly different varieties of aubergines of different origins, the indication of each country of origin shall appear next to the name of the variety concerned.

6.2.4 Commercial Identification

- Class;
- size.

6.2.5 Official Inspection Mark (optional)

⁶ REP15/FFV, para 51, Appendix III

⁷ The full or a commonly used name should be indicated.

⁸ The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in the case where a code mark is used, the reference "Packer and/or dispatcher (or equivalent abbreviation)" has to be indicated in close connection with the code mark.

D. COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CCFA)

Proposed draft revision of the *General Standard for the Labelling of food additives when sold as such* (CODEX STAN 107-1981)⁹ (For adoption at Step 5/8)

Note: New text is presented in **bold and underlined font**; deletion in strikethrough font

4. MANDATORY LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOOD ADDITIVES SOLD BY RETAIL

4.1 Details of the food additive

- (a) The name of each food additive present shall be given. The name shall be specific and not generic and shall indicate the true nature of the food additive. Where a name has been established for a food additive in a Codex list of additives, that name shall be used. In other cases the common or usual name shall be listed or, where none exists, an appropriate descriptive name shall be used.
- (b) If two or more food additives are present, their names shall be given in the form of a list. The list shall be in the order of the proportion by weight which each food additive bears to the total contents of the container, the food additive present in the greatest proportion by weight being listed first. Where one or more of the food additives is subject to a quantitative limitation in a food covered by a Codex standard, the quantity or proportion of that additive may be stated. ~~If food ingredients are part of the preparation, they shall be declared in the list of ingredients in descending order of proportion.~~
- (c) In the case of mixtures of flavourings, the name of each flavouring present in the mixture need not be given. The generic expression “flavour” or “flavouring” may be used, together with a true indication of the nature of the flavour **an indication of the organoleptic properties (e.g. “apple flavouring”) and/or the origin or source of the product.** ~~The expression “flavour” or “flavouring” may be qualified by the words “natural,” “nature identical,” “artificial,” or a combination of these words, as appropriate. This provision does not apply to flavour modifiers, but does apply to “herbs” and “spices,” which generic expressions may be used where appropriate. When indicating the origin or source of the product, the generic expression may be qualified by the words “natural” in the case of natural flavourings as defined in CAC/GL 66-2008, “artificial” in the case of synthetic flavourings as defined in CAC/GL 66-2008, or a combination of these words, as appropriate.~~
- (d) Food additives with a shelf-life not exceeding 18 months shall carry the date of minimum durability using words such as “will keep at least until”.
- (e) The words “For Food Use” or a statement substantially similar thereto shall appear in a prominent position on the label.
- (f) **If food ingredients are part of the preparation, they shall be declared in the list of ingredients in descending order of proportion. Ingredients for which class names are set out in section 4.2.3.1 in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985) may be declared by the applicable class name, except for those ingredients that are identified in section 4.2.1.4 of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985) as foods or ingredients that are known to cause hypersensitivity.**

5. MANDATORY LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOOD ADDITIVES SOLD OTHER THAN BY RETAIL

5.1 Details of the food additive

- (a) The name of each food additive present shall be given. The name shall be specific and not generic and shall indicate the true nature of the food additive. Where a name has been established for a food additive in a Codex list of additives, that name shall be used. In other cases, the common or usual name shall be listed or, where none exists, an appropriate descriptive name shall be used.
- (b) If two or more food additives are present, their names shall be given in the form of a list. The list shall be in the order of the proportion by weight which each food additive bears to the total contents of the container, the food additive present in the greatest proportion by weight being listed first. Where one or more food additives is subject to a quantitative limitation in a food in the country in which the food additive is to be used, the quantity or proportion of that additive and/or adequate instruction to enable the compliance with the limitation shall be given. ~~If food ingredients are part of the preparation, they shall be declared in the list of ingredients in descending order of proportion.~~

⁹ REP16/FFA, para 152, Appendix XV

- (c) In the case of mixtures of flavourings, the name of each flavouring present in the mixture need not be given. The generic expression “flavour” or “flavouring” may be used, together with a true indication of the nature of the flavour **an indication of the organoleptic properties (e.g. “apple flavouring”) and/or the origin or source of the product.** The expression “flavour” or “flavouring” may be qualified by the words “natural,” “nature-identical,” “artificial,” or a combination of these words, as appropriate. This provision does not apply to flavour modifiers, but does apply to “herbs” and “spices,” which generic expressions may be used where appropriate. **When indicating the origin or source of the product, the generic expression may be qualified by the words “natural” in the case of natural flavourings as defined in CAC/GL 66-2008, “artificial” in the case of synthetic flavourings as defined in CAC/GL 66-2008, or a combination of these words, as appropriate.**
- (d) Food additives with a shelf-life not exceeding 18 months shall carry the date of minimum durability using words such as “will keep at least until ...”.
- (e) The words “For Food Use” or a statement substantially similar thereto shall appear in a prominent position on the label.
- (f) **If food ingredients are part of the preparation, they shall be declared in the list of ingredients in descending order of proportion. Ingredients for which class names are set out in section 4.2.3.1 in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985) may be declared by the applicable class name, except for those ingredients that are identified in section 4.2.1.4 of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985) as foods or ingredients that are known to cause hypersensitivity.**