



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION
00100 Rome, Via delle Terme di Caracalla. Cables: FOODAGRI, Rome. Tel. 5797



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
1211 Genève, 27 Avenue Appia. Cables: UNISANTÉ, Genève. Tél. 34 60 61

ALINORM 72/19 A

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Ninth Session, Rome, 6-17 November 1972

REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE
Vienna, 14 - 16 June 1972

INTRODUCTION

1. The ninth session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe was held in Vienna by courtesy of the Government of Austria. The meeting was opened by Dr. R. Wildner, Coordinator for Europe, who welcomed the participants and drew their attention to the importance of public health considerations to the work of the Coordinating Committee for Europe. He expressed the hope that the European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters would be finalized at the present session. The meeting was also welcomed by Dr. H. Redl, representing Dipl. Ing. Dr. O. Weihs, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, who expressed his Ministry's interest in the work of the Commission and in particular the work of the Coordinating Committee for Europe. He wished the meeting a success in its deliberations. The meeting was then welcomed by Dr. I. Leodolter, Minister for Public Health and Environmental Protection. She pointed out that it was for the first time that the Coordinating Committee for Europe met under the auspices of this new ministry, which was greatly interested in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. She noted that production and trade in food was no longer a domestic but rather an international matter and appealed to the Committee as well as to the World Health Organization to ensure that due consideration be given to the health of the consumer in drawing up international standards. She then wished the Committee a successful meeting.

2. The meeting was attended by delegates from the following countries of the European region: Austria, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Italy, Luxemburg, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. Observers were also present from the European Economic Community. Dr. R. Wildner presided as Chairman of the session. Representatives of FAO and WHO were the Joint Secretaries of the meeting. The list of participants is attached as Appendix I.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The provisional agenda was adopted without any rearrangement in the order of business.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE 4TH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

4. The Committee had before it the report of the above Committee (CX/MIN 72/Report) which was distributed at the Session. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, Professor O. Högl, gave a summary of the conclusions of that Committee and indicated that a considerable degree of agreement had been reached on the sections of the Standard dealing with Scope, Definition of natural mineral water and Optional Labelling. The Coordinating Committee for Europe took note of the report of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters. It was agreed that points (a) and (b) of item 3 of the Agenda dealing with the criteria on which recognition of natural mineral waters as having properties favourable to health is based and the clarification of the definition of a natural mineral water, respectively, would be considered under agenda item 4 at the appropriate point during the discussions. The Coordinating Committee then proceeded to discuss the amendments which the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters had adopted and which are contained in Appendix II of the report of that Committee.

Scope Section

5. The Coordinating Committee accepted unanimously the amendments proposed by the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters. It was noted, however, that the French and German versions of this section needed editorial revision to bring them into line with the English text.

Definition of Natural Mineral Waters

6. The Coordinating Committee adopted the amended definition proposed by the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters (see Appendix II, ALINORM 72/19 B) with a number of editorial changes, as follows:

- a) To change the first paragraph of the definition to make it clear that, as a result of the underground origin of the water, both the nature and the original purity of the water were preserved;
- b) to change the words "shall be determined" to "shall have been determined" to clarify that the various examinations are carried out before a water is recognized as a natural mineral water;
- c) to change the text appearing in paragraph (iv) in such a way as to clarify that clinical and pharmacological examinations were not obligatory where mineral waters contained 1000 mg/kg or more total dissolved solids or 250 mg/kg or more dissolved free carbon dioxide.

7. The Committee also agreed with a proposal of the delegation of Switzerland to add the following sentence at the end of the definition: "This recognition shall be published officially". The Coordinating Committee noted that the addition of such a statement to the definition was agreed to in principle by the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters.

8. Regarding the first paragraph of the definition, the representative of WHO requested clarification as to whether the natural mineral water would also be protected from contamination by radioactive materials. It was pointed out by the delegation of Austria that the Standard required natural mineral waters to have properties favourable to health and that as a result the standard ensured that a water would not be recognized as a natural mineral water if it contained unsafe levels of radioactivity. The delegation of France drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the radioactivity in the packaged mineral water would be less than at emergence.

9. The representative of WHO also requested clarification on whether indeed it was the Committee's intention to exclude from clinical and pharmacological examination those waters which contained at least 1000 mg/kg of total dissolved solids or at least 250 mg/kg of free dissolved carbon dioxide, as this appeared to be inconsistent with a requirement that mineral waters containing less amounts of such substances would be required to be tested both clinically and pharmacologically. It was pointed out that the basic idea of the present standard was that mineral waters with less than 1000 mg/kg or 250 mg/kg of total dissolved solids and free dissolved carbon dioxide, respectively, would have to undergo clinical and pharmacological examinations, while mineral waters with more than these amounts would not.

10. The representative of WHO requested that it should be clarified as to what approved scientific methods and principles for the clinical evaluation would be applied to the examination of natural mineral waters. Standard methodology for the microbiological evaluation of drinking water had been published by WHO in the Third Edition of the International Standards for Drinking Water (1971) and there existed a number of WHO publications dealing with the methodology and principles for the evaluation and testing of drugs, which could be applied to the evaluation of medical claims in relation to natural mineral waters. The Committee agreed that the scientific methods would be those approved by the national authority as stated in the last paragraph of the definition. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was of the opinion that the expression "properties favourable to health" in the definition should be further discussed in an attempt to reconcile the objections raised by WHO.

Optional Labelling

11. The Committee adopted the amendment to the Section Optional Labelling proposed by the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters (see Appendix II, ALINORM 72/19 B) but decided to make certain editorial changes to the introductory statement and to paragraph (c) (see Appendix II of this Report). The representative of WHO drew the Committee's attention to the recommendation of his Organization that statements concerning properties favourable to health on the label of natural mineral waters should not be permitted.

Supplementary Definition and Descriptions

12. The Committee noted the proposal of the Government of Poland to amend Sections B(i) and (iii) of the Standard. As regards the amendment to B(i) the Committee noted that it was of an editorial nature and decided to leave the original text unchanged. As regards B(iii) the Committee was not in agreement to change the word "source" to "deposit" and furthermore, considered that the introduction of the phrase "taking into account the normal technical tolerance" was not appropriate to de-carbonated natural mineral waters or natural mineral waters fortified with carbon dioxide from the source.

13. The delegation of France pointed out that all natural mineral waters contained at least trace amounts of free carbon dioxide and that, therefore, Section B(ii) should be amended to indicate that non-effervescent natural mineral waters did not contain free carbon dioxide in excess. The delegate of Austria stated that at pH 8.4 mineral waters did not contain any free carbon dioxide and that the best way to regulate the presence of free carbon dioxide in non-effervescent natural mineral waters was to lay down limits for this gas as has been done in the Austrian regulations. The Committee decided to add the words "in excess" to the end of Section B(ii).

Hygiene

14. The representative of WHO proposed that the provision regulating the bacteriological properties of natural mineral waters (Section IV(ii)) should be amended in such a way as to require that mineral waters be of a higher quality than drinking water as described in the most recent WHO International Standards for Drinking Water (which is 1971, 3rd Edition), and that the word "bacteriological" should be changed to "microbiological". In view of the fact that this amendment would create difficulties concerning the enforcement of this provision, the Committee did not accept the WHO proposal but agreed to the editorial change concerning the word "bacteriological" and also agreed to refer to the latest edition of the WHO Standard rather than specify the year of publication.

15. The delegations of France and Italy proposed that the requirements for the microbiological properties of natural mineral waters should apply at the emergence of the water. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, supported by the delegations of the United Kingdom, Austria and Sweden, was not in favour of restricting this provision to the point of emergence. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany pointed out that there was evidence that mineral water which did not contain carbon dioxide and packed in containers developed microorganisms which represented a hazard to health and that, therefore, the standard should lay down a maximum total count for microorganisms in the product. The delegation of France, supported by other delegations, were of the opinion that natural mineral waters represented a product which had a good history as regards bacteriological safety and that it was more relevant to specify the type of microorganisms which should not be present in the product rather than to specify a limit for total microbiological content. In order to have a better control over the microbiological quality of the natural mineral water, further criteria should be laid down in the standard to ensure that the water was bacteriologically safe and suggested such criteria should be appended to the Standard (see paragraph 20). The delegation of Austria stated that if the Standard were to restrict the provision for microbiological examination to the point of emergence, there would be a need to further specify the exact stage between collection and packaging at which such examination would have to be carried out. The Committee decided not to amend the provision and the delegations of Italy, France and Luxemburg stated that, in this event, all types of treatment of mineral water, except those provided for in the Standard, should be forbidden. They proposed that Section III.A(ii) should be amended accordingly. The Committee adopted this proposal. The amended text is given in Appendix II.

16. The representative of WHO proposed the following text to be inserted as (v) of the section dealing with Hygiene: "Mineral waters must not contain any substance which could be detrimental to the health of children or adults (pregnant or not) or patients suffering from different ailments, even if their entire water intake consisted of one brand of mineral water. Concerning this proposal several delegations were of the opinion that in view of the general principles and philosophy of the Codex Alimentarius Commission it went without saying that Codex Standards required foods to be wholesome which represented no risk to the health of the consumer. For this reason it was considered that the amendment was not necessary.

Labelling

17. It was noted that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling had made certain editorial changes to the text of Section A; the Coordinating Committee was in agreement with these changes.

Labelling Prohibition

18. The representative of WHO proposed that, in view of the fact that the standard (a) covered natural mineral waters whenever used as beverages, i.e. a food, (b) defined natural mineral waters as having "properties favourable to health" and (c) permitted statements to that effect provided they were in conformity with national legislation, an additional paragraph be included in the above section which would prohibit reference, on the label of natural mineral waters covered by the standard, to therapeutic, preventive or medicinal properties. The Committee was not in agreement with this proposal since, in its opinion, the standard already provided that any such declaration would have to be made in conformity with national legislation.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling

19. Professor O. Högl informed the Committee that an Informal Group of experts had met in Berne in April to discuss methods of analysis for natural mineral waters and that the report of that Group would be placed before the next session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. The Committee agreed that the methods of analysis which will have been endorsed should be included in the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure.

Proposed Appendix to the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters

20. The delegation of France, supported by the Italian and Swiss delegations, proposed to add an Appendix to the Standard concerning various criteria to be observed and information to be provided for the recognition of a water as natural mineral water. The delegation of France then gave an account of the previous work of the Committee. Until the Session of the Coordinating Committee in October 1971, the Draft Standard was based on a dual definition of mineral waters: (a) quantitative, so-called "germanic" definition and (b) qualitative, or "latin" definition based on "properties favourable to health". In order to reconcile the various opinions, in particular those of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany and WHO, the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters agreed (at its 4th Session, Vienna 12-13 June 1972) to another definition which differs from the previous one by being a single definition as well as by the fact that it regards the "nature" and "original purity" of waters to be recognized as natural mineral waters as essential criteria. According to this new definition, the "properties favourable to health" are based on the "nature" and "original purity" of the recognized mineral waters. In view of the acceptance of these principles, it is necessary to state clearly according to which criteria shall the recognition of a mineral water as such be made, as these criteria are only listed in the Section "Description" of the Standard under (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). The delegation of France stated that the purpose of the Appendix which it was proposing to add to the Standard was to specify these criteria for recognition.

21. The proposal to append such criteria was favourably received by all delegations present and it was agreed that Governments should be requested to send their comments on the Appendix (see Appendix III of this Report) to the Secretariat before the 9th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Rome, November 1972). As regards questions of the legal status of the Appendix and the procedure to be followed, the Committee discussed this matter but did not come to any definite conclusion. The consensus of opinion was that, whatever procedure

was to be followed, the Appendix should eventually form part of the Standard which it was intended to complete. [The Committee considered that it would be desirable to hold a brief session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe during the 9th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to discuss the proposed guidelines in the light of comments received from governments and requested the Secretariat to explore the possibility of holding such a session.] 1/

Decision of the Committee regarding the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters

22. The Committee decided that the Draft European Standard for Natural Mineral Waters should be submitted to the Codex Alimentarius Commission at Step 8 of the Codex Procedure.

OTHER BUSINESS

General Survey on Control Services and Inspection Systems in Europe

23. The delegation of Hungary informed the Committee that, as requested by the last session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe, the Hungarian National Codex Committee had circulated a questionnaire to members of this Committee seeking their views on the suitability of the questionnaire. The questionnaire dealt with a general survey of food control services and inspection systems responsible for ensuring compliance with provisions of food standards in the different countries of Europe. The Committee was informed that, from the limited number of replies received, it appeared that the form of the questionnaire was satisfactory. The Committee expressed its interest in this work and also expressed its thanks to the Hungarian National Codex Committee and requested the delegation of Hungary to pursue this matter further. Participants were asked to send the completed questionnaire to Hungary as soon as possible. It was agreed that on the basis of a working paper prepared by Hungary it would be possible to discuss this matter further at the next session.

Edible Ices

24. The Committee was informed that the 18th Session of the Executive Committee had considered the proposal of this Committee concerning the elaboration of a European standard for edible ices; the Executive Committee had instructed the FAO Secretariat to obtain up-to-date information concerning international trade in these products to assist the Commission in its deliberations on this subject.

Future Work 2/

25. The Committee was informed that the 18th Session of the Executive Committee had referred the proposal of the Coordinator for Europe that European regional standards be developed for salt, vinegar and eggs to this Committee for consideration. Professor Högl informed the Committee of his discussions with the Comité Européen d'Etude du Sel; that Committee was of the opinion that salt should be regarded as food rather than food additive and, as there existed salts of various quality, it was desirable to draw up individual standards for that commodity. In view of the significant European trade in salt, standards should be drawn up on a European basis although the possibility of worldwide standards should not be excluded. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had developed a draft specification for sodium chloride which dealt with a limited number of aspects, such as identity and purity. The Coordinating Committee was informed that the Commission would discuss the question of the elaboration of a standard or standards for table salt.

1/ Although the Committee agreed to delete para 21 of the Draft Report in its entirety and to replace it by the present paras 20 and 21 as proposed by the delegation of France, the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee for Europe subsequently requested the Secretariat to re-insert the sentence in square brackets, which reflects accurately the decision of the Committee.

2/ Paras 25, 26 and 27 were adopted by the Committee after having been read out by the Secretariat during the adoption of the Report.

26. The Committee also considered the desirability of establishing a standard or standards for vinegar. It agreed that the standards contained in the Codex Alimentarius Austriacus would serve as a basis of discussions at Step 2, and agreed that it would be desirable to elaborate such standards on a European basis. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was of the opinion that there was no need to elaborate a standard either for table salt or vinegar, while the delegation of the United Kingdom was of the opinion that justification should be provided for the elaboration of these standards to assist the Commission in its deliberations. As regards the elaboration of standards for eggs, the Committee noted that ECE was working in this field and requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on the progress of work done by the ECE for its next session. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was of the opinion that there was no need to elaborate a standard for eggs. The delegation of France was of the opinion that it was desirable to elaborate a standard for beer; the delegation of Italy suggested that standards should be elaborated for bakery products such as biscuits, pastry and sweets. The Committee did not discuss the last two proposals any further.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS *
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

Chairman of the Session
Président de la session
Presidente de la Reunión

Dr. Richard Wildner
Coordinator for Europe
Stubenring 1
A-1010 Vienna

Delegates
Délégués
Delegados

AUSTRIA
AUTRICHE

Dr. Johann Ettl
Ministerialrat
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und
Umweltschutz
Stubenring 1
A-1010 Vienna

Dr. Georg Bancalari
Vorsteher-Stellvertreter
Fachverband Mineralquellen
Hoher Markt 3
A-1010 Vienna

AUSTRIA (contd.)

Dr. Ladislaus Blaschek
Bundswirtschaftskammer
Hoher Markt 3
A-1010 Vienna

Dr. Herbert Gutwald
Osterreichische Unilever
Schenkenstrasse 8
A-1010 Vienna

Dr. Robert Harmer
Fachverband der Nahrungs- und
Genussmittelindustrie
Renngasse 4
A-1010 Vienna

* The Heads of Delegations are listed first; Alternates, Advisers, and Consultants are listed in alphabetical order.

Les chefs de délégations figurent en tête et les suppléants, conseillers et consultants sont énumérés par ordre alphabétique.

Figuran en primer lugar los Jefes de las delegaciones; los Suplentes, Asesores y Consultores aparecen por orden alfabético.

AUSTRIA (contd.)

Dr. Herbert Hauffe
Ministerialrat
Bundesministerium für Handel, Gewerbe
und Industrie
Stubenring 1
A-1010 Vienna

Theodor Lejolle
Rat
Bundesministerium für Handel, Gewerbe
und Industrie
Stubenring 1
A-1010 Vienna

Franz Lorenz
Amtsrat
Keilgasse 10/6
A-1030 Vienna

Dr. Johann Lustig
Generalanwalt, Vorstand. öster. Codexkammer
Generalprokuratur, Lindanugasse 5/31
1238 Vienna

Dr. A. Modl
Geschäftsführer des Fachverbandes der
Mineralquellenbetriebe
Hoher Markt 3
A-1010 Vienna

Dr. Friedrich Münchberg
O. Hochschulprofessor
Tierärztliche Hochschule
Linke Bahngasse 11
A-1030 Vienna

Gerhart Paral
Ministerialrat, Abteilungsleiter
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und
Umweltschutz
Stubenring 1
A-1010 Vienna

Dr. Karl Pfoser
Sektionsrat
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und
Umweltschutz
Stubenring 1
A-1010 Vienna

Dr. Hermann Redl
Ministerialsekretär
Bundesministerium für Land- und
Forstwirtschaft
Stubenring 1
A-1010 Vienna

Dr. Karl Schindl
Sekt. Chef i.R.
O.A.V., Leiter des Institutes für
Gesundheitsvorsorge
Volksgasse 6/V/10
A-1130 Vienna

AUSTRIA (contd.)

Dr. Leopold Schmid
Universitätsprofessor
Hetzendorferstrasse 115
A-1125 Vienna

Ing. Herbert Sedy
Verein für Konsumenteninformation
Mariahilferstrasse 81
A-1060 Vienna

Dr. Klaus Smolka
Geschäftsführer des Fachverb. der
Nahrungs- und Genussmittelind.
Österreichs
Zaunerg. 1-3
1037 Vienna

Ing. Arwed Stehlik
Bundesstaatliche Anstalt für exp.-
pharmakolog. u. balneolog.
Untersuchungen
Währingerstrasse 13 a
A-1090 Vienna

Dr. Werner Thumser
Min. Sekr.
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und
Umweltschutz
Stubenring 1
A-1010 Vienna

Professor Dr. Rudolf Wenger
Primarius
Krankenanstalt Rudolfstiftung
Esteplatz 5
A-1030 Vienna

Dkfm. Otto Waas
Fachverband der Nahrungs- und
Genussmittelindustrie
Zaunergasse 1-3
A-1030 Vienna

Dozent Dr. Herbert Woidich
Lebensmittelversuchsanstalt
Blaasstrasse 29
A-1190 Vienna

FRANCE
FRANCIA

Paul Bordier
Président, Chambre Syndicate
Française des Eaux Minérales
24 rue du IV Septembre
Paris

Perre Brun
Assistant Université Paris V Reni
Descarts
Groupement Européen des Eaux Minérales
(GESEM) 142 Bd. Berthiér
Paris 17e

FRANCE (contd.)

Charles Castang
Service de la Répression des Fraudes
42bis rue du IV Septembre
Paris

Professeur Maurice Lamarohe
Faculté Médecine
Ministère de la Santé Publique
54- Nancy

Dr. Bernard Ninard
Directeur Section Etudes Hydrologiques
et Thermales
Laboratoire National du Ministère de la
Santé Publique
1, rue Lanetelle
F-75, Paris 15e

Dr. Marguerite Roche
Conseiller Technique
Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la
Sécurité Sociale
1, Place de Fontenoy
Paris 7e

GERMANY, FED. REP. OF
ALLEMAGNE, REP. FED.
ALEMANIA, REP. FED.

Mrs. Helga Elstner
Ministerialdirektor
Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie
und Gesundheit
Bonn-Bad Godesberg

Dr. Karl Wolfgang Evers
Regierungsrat z.A.
Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie
und Gesundheit
53 Bonn-Bad Godesberg

Karl-Heinz Kriege
Ministerialrat
Bundesministerium für Ernährung,
Landwirtschaft und Forsten
53 Bonn/BML

Dr. Georg Schröder
Syndikus
Verband Dtsch. Mineralwässer
Kennedyallee 28
Bad Godesberg

HUNGARY
HONGRIE
HUNGRIA

Dr. Joseph Kovács
Head, Dept. of Radiology and Toxicology
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
Kossuth L. tér 11
Budapest V

HUNGARY (contd.)

Dr. Joseph Szilágyi
Head of Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
Kossuth L. tér 11
Budapest V

ITALY
ITALIE
ITALIA

Dr. Pasquale Caruso
Direttore Divisione Idrologia Medica
Ministero della Sanità
Via Liszt 34
Rome

Dr. Adriano Pepe
Ricercatore
Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Viale Regina Elena 299
Rome

Dr. Calisto Zambrano
Secretary General of the Italian
Codex Committee
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Via Sallustiana 10
Rome

LUXEMBURG
LUXEMBOURG
LUXEMBURGO

Dr. François Arendt
Chef de service du laboratoire du
contrôle alimentaire
Ministère de la Santé Publique
Institut d'Hygiène et de Santé Publique
1A, rue Auguste Lumière

SPAIN
ESPAGNE
ESPAÑA

Roman Casares
President of the Spanish Codex Committee
Ministro Ibanez Martin 1
Madrid 15

Rafael Calleja
Président du Groupement espagnol
d'embouteilleurs d'eau minérale
Rafael Calvo 9
Madrid

SWEDEN
SUEDE
SUECIA

Vidar Hellström
National Food Administration
Fack, 10401 Stockholm 60

SWEDEN (contd.)

Olof Agren
Deputy Head of Division
National Food Administration
Codex Secretariat
S-10401 Stockholm 60

Birger Sidalth
Head of Section
Ministry of Agriculture
Fack 103 20
Stockholm

SWITZERLAND

SUISSE

SUIZA

Professor Otto Högl
a. Professor an der Universität Bern
Codex Alimentarius
Grüneckweg 12
Bern

Ing. F. Jeanrichard
Soc. Ass. technique
Prod. NESTLE
Case postale 88
CH-1806 La Tour de Peilz

Jean Ruffly
Président du Comité national suisse du
Codex Alimentarius
Haslerstrasse 16
CH-3008 Bern

UNITED KINGDOM

ROYAUME-UNI

REINO UNIDO

D.L. Orme
Senior Executive Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food

Great Westminster House
Horseferry Road
London S.W. 1

D.A. Threadgill
Senior Scientific Officer
Laboratory of the Govt. Chemist
Cornwall House, Stamford Street
London S.E. 1

YUGOSLAVIA

YUGOSLAVIE

Dr. S. Stosić
Inspecteur fédéral sanitaire pour
l'Hygiène et l'Alimentation
Beograd, post 25, SIV II

YUGOSLAVIA (contd.)

Dipl. Ing. Vera Ozim
"Zentrum für die Mineralwasser-
Forschung"
62000 Maribor, Smetanova 17

Mag.-Dipl. Ing. Vojko Ozim
Berater des "Verbandes Jugoslav.
Mineralwasser-Produzenten"
62000 Maribor, Smetanova 17

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC)

Mme. Gilberte Maisonneuve
Fonctionnaire
Commission des Communautés Européennes
23, avenue de la Joyeux Entrée
Bruxelles 4

Mme. Elisabeth Mutschlechner
Administrateur
Secretariat Général du Conseil des
Communautés Européennes
170, rue de la loi
1040 Bruxelles

Michel Macron
Chef de Division
Commission des Communautés Européennes
Direction Générales des Affaires
Industrielles
Technologiques et Scientifiques
23, avenue de la Joyeux Entrée
Bruxelles 4

UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

INSTITUTIONS DES NATIONS UNIES

ORGANISMOS DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

FAO

Dr. L.G. Ladomery
Food Standards Officer
FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Rome 00100

WHO

OMS

Dr. John I. Munn
Senior Scientist
Food Additives Unit
1211 Geneva 27

DRAFT EUROPEAN REGIONAL STANDARD FOR NATURAL MINERAL WATERS AT STEP 8

I. SCOPE

This standard applies to all natural mineral waters whenever used as beverages, and to refreshing non-alcoholic beverages, which are manufactured with natural mineral waters insofar as the content of natural mineral waters is concerned.

II. DESCRIPTION

A. Definition of Natural Mineral Water

Natural mineral water is bacteriologically sound water from a natural or drilled underground water source. It is clearly distinguishable from ordinary drinking water (a) because of its nature which is characterized by its content of minerals or trace elements or other constituents; and (b) because of its original purity; both nature and purity having been preserved unchanged as a result of the underground origin of this water, which has been protected from all types of pollution.

These characteristics, which confer properties favourable to health, shall have been determined on the basis of examination according to approved scientific methods, with regard to:

- (i) geological and hydrological;
- (ii) physical, chemical and physico-chemical;
- (iii) microbiological; and
- (iv) clinical and pharmacological considerations.

These clinical and pharmacological examinations are not obligatory when the water in question contains in 1 kg, at its origin and after packaging, at least 1000 mg of total dissolved solids or at least 250 mg of free dissolved carbon dioxide.

The recognition of a water as a natural mineral water in accordance with the above criteria is a matter for the competent authority in the country of origin. This recognition shall be published officially.

B. Supplementary Definitions and Descriptions

(i) Naturally effervescent mineral water

A naturally effervescent mineral water is a water which, after possible decantation and replacement of gas and after packaging, has the same content of gas from the source as at emergence of the water taking into account the usual technical tolerance.

(ii) Non-effervescent mineral water

A non-effervescent mineral water is a water which by nature and after possible decantation and after packaging does not contain free carbon dioxide in excess.

(iii) Decarbonated natural mineral water or natural mineral water fortified with carbon dioxide from the source

A decarbonated natural mineral water or a natural mineral water fortified with carbon dioxide from the source is a water which after possible decantation and after packaging does not have the same carbon dioxide content as at emergence.

(iv) Carbonated natural mineral water

A carbonated natural mineral water is a water which after possible decantation and after packaging has been made effervescent by the addition of carbon dioxide from another origin.

(v) Decantation is a physical process of separating undesirable elements from mineral water, permitted by national legislation.

III. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

A. Compositional Criteria

- (i) The composition, temperature, and generally, the essential characteristics of the water must remain stable within the limits of natural fluctuations. Possible variations in flow must not be able to change the composition, the temperature or the essential characteristics.
- (ii) The treatments provided for in paragraphs II.B (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) above may only be carried out on condition that the mineral content of the water is not modified in its essential constituents which give the water its properties.
- (iii) Any treatment, other than those permitted in the standard, is forbidden.
- (iv) The transport of natural mineral waters in mobile tankers for packaging or for any other process before packaging is prohibited.
- (v) The installation intended for the production (exploitation) of natural mineral waters shall be such as to preserve the properties of the water in conformity with its definition.
- (vi) The use of natural mineral water is permitted in the manufacture of refreshing non-alcoholic beverages subject to the provisions of Sections VI.A(vii) and (viii).

IV. HYGIENE

The following provisions in respect of the food hygiene of this product have been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

- (i) It is recommended that the products to which this standard refer should be prepared in conformity with the applicable sections of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (Ref. No. CAC/RCP 1-1969).
- (ii) The microbiological properties of natural mineral waters shall be at least those recommended in the latest WHO "International Standards for Drinking Water". 1/
- (iii) The source or the point of emergence shall be protected against risks of pollution.
- (iv) The installations intended for the production (exploitation) of natural mineral waters shall be such as to exclude any possibility of contamination. For this purpose and in particular:
 - (a) the catchment, the pipes and the reservoirs shall be made from material suited to the water and in such a way as to prevent the introduction of foreign substances into this water;
 - (b) the equipment and the use thereof for production (exploitation), especially installations for washing and packaging, shall meet hygienic requirements;
 - (c) if during production (exploitation) it is found that the water is polluted, the producer shall stop all operations until the cause of pollution is eliminated;
 - (d) the observance of the above provisions shall be subject to periodic checks in accordance with the requirements of the country of origin.

1/ At the time of publication of this Standard, the WHO International Standards for Drinking Water, 3rd Edition, 1971, would apply.

V. PACKAGING

A. Containers

Natural mineral waters and refreshing non-alcoholic beverages when sold, shall be packed in sealed containers suitable for preventing the possibility of adulteration or contamination of the water or beverage.

VI. LABELLING

Unless otherwise indicated, the following provisions in respect of the labelling of this product have been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. In addition to Sections 1, 2, 4 and 6 of the Recommended General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Ref. CAC/RS 1-1969), the following provisions apply:

A. The Name of the Product

- (i) The designation "natural mineral water" shall only be used if the water conforms to the definition in Section II.A.
- (ii) The designation "naturally effervescent mineral water" shall only be used if the content of carbon dioxide from the source is the same as at emergence in accordance with Section II.B(i).
- (iii) The designation "non-effervescent natural mineral water" shall only be used if by nature the water does not contain free carbon dioxide in accordance with Section II.B(ii).
- (iv) The designation "decarbonated natural mineral water" or "natural mineral water fortified with carbon dioxide from the source" shall be used if the content of carbon dioxide in the water is not the same as at emergence in accordance with Section II.B(iii).
- (v) The designation "carbonated natural mineral water" shall be used if there has been an addition of carbon dioxide from another origin in accordance with Section II.B(iv).
- (vi) If the natural mineral water has been decanted, then the word "decanted" shall form part of the designation.

Labelling of refreshing non-alcoholic beverages containing natural mineral water

- (vii) Refreshing non-alcoholic beverages containing natural mineral water may bear on the label the name of such natural mineral water only if they have been manufactured at the place of the exploitation of the source.
- (viii) When refreshing, non-alcoholic beverages contain natural mineral water, the presence of natural mineral water may be mentioned on the label only if no water other than natural mineral water has been added to the product. There shall not be any reference to properties favourable to health.

Labelling of beverages not complying with the Standard

- (ix) No statement may be made on the label or in the labelling of any beverage not complying with the definition of natural mineral water in Section II.A. which is liable to create confusion between such beverage and natural mineral water, and, in particular, no reference may be made to properties favourable to health or to statements of analyses.

B. Net Contents

The net contents shall be declared by volume in either the metric system (S.I. units) or avoirdupois or both systems of measurement, as required by the country in which the product is sold.

C. Name and Address

The name and address of the manufacturer shall be declared.

D. Country of Origin

The location of the source or the name of the source as well as country of origin shall be declared.

E. Optional Labelling 1/

Where any of the following information appears on the label or container, and in particular any claim concerning properties favourable to health, it shall conform with any appropriate national legislation of the country in which the natural mineral water is sold:

- (a) trade name;
- (b) the date of the authorization to commence production (exploitation);
- (c) the results of analysis of the water either as it emerges at the source, including a statement of any treatment, or of the results of analysis of the water in the container;
- (d) statements concerning properties favourable to health.

F. Labelling Prohibitions

- (i) The name of a locality, hamlet or specified place may not form part of the trade name unless it refers to a natural mineral water produced (exploited) at the place designated by that trade name.
- (ii) The use of any statement or of any pictorial device which may create confusion in the mind of the public about the nature, origin, composition and properties of natural mineral waters put on sale is prohibited.

VII. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

The methods of analysis and sampling described hereunder are International referee methods which are subject to endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

To be elaborated (see para 19 of this Report).

APPENDIX III

PROPOSED APPENDIX TO THE STANDARD FOR NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

1. Specifications and Criteria for the application of the Definition

1.1 Specifications for geological and hydrological examinations

The following are required:

- 1.1.1 The exact location of the catchment site as determined by its altitude and, topographically, by a map of a scale of not greater than 1/1000;
- 1.1.2 a detailed geological report on the origin and nature of the soil;
- 1.1.3 a stratigraphic survey of the hydrological deposit;
- 1.1.4 a description of catchment works;
- 1.1.5 description of the zone of protection of the source against pollution.

1.2 Specifications for physical, chemical, and physico-chemical examinations

These examinations refer especially to:

- 1.2.1 The rate of flow of the source;
- 1.2.2 the temperature of the water at emergence and the ambient temperature;

1/ Previous text deleted by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (see para 17, ALINORM 70/22). The present text (changes underlined) is subject to consideration by that Committee.

- 1.2.3 the relationship between the nature of the soil and the nature and type of mineralization;
- 1.2.4 dry residue at 180°C and 260°C;
- 1.2.5 the electrical conductivity or resistivity of the water, at a specified temperature;
- 1.2.6 hydrogen ion concentration (pH);
- 1.2.7 anions and cations;
- 1.2.8 non-ionized constituents;
- 1.2.9 trace elements;
- 1.2.10 radioactinology at emergence;
- 1.2.11 if appropriate, the relative proportions of isotopes of the elements which constitute water (oxygen) (O,16, O,18) and hydrogen (protium, deuterium, tritium);
- 1.2.12 the toxicity of certain elements which are part of the water, taking into account any limits laid down in this respect for the water in question.

1.3 Criteria applicable to microbiological examination at emergence

These examinations shall include:

- 1.3.1 A demonstration of the absence of pathogenic microbes;
- 1.3.2 a quantitative determination of microbes which indicate a fecal contamination:
 - (a) E. Coli count: Negative result in at least 250 ml, at 37°C and 44.5°C;
 - (b) Absence of fecal streptococci in at least 250 ml;
 - (c) Absence of sulphite-reducing anaerobic spores in 50 ml;
- 1.3.3 a determination of the total number of microbes per ml of water;
 - (a) on agar medium:
 - (i) at 20°C to 22°C for 72 or 96 hours;
 - (ii) at 37°C for 24 hours;
 - (b) possibly, on gelatine medium at 18°C - 20°C for 15 days.

1.4 Specifications for clinical and pharmacological examination

- 1.4.1 The type of examination to be carried out according to proven scientific methods, shall be appropriate to the actual characteristics of the natural mineral water and to its effect on the human organism, such as diuresis, gastric or intestinal function and compensation for mineral substance deficiencies.
- 1.4.2 A large number of consistent and corroborative clinical observations can, if appropriate, be taken into consideration in place of the examinations referred to under 1.4.1. The same applies when the particular mineral water has characteristics of composition on the basis of which such water has been recognized as a natural mineral water prior to the enforcement of the present standard.