

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2019/82-FL
July 2019

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 INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN FOOD LABELLING

DEADLINE: 31 January 2020

COMMENTS:

To:

Codex Contact Point for Canada
Food Directorate, Health Canada
Room C416
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Copy to:

Secretariat
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Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
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BACKGROUND

1. The 45th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL45) discussed the topic of innovation and technology in food labelling and agreed:
 - a) That Canada would prepare a further discussion paper to further clarify the scope of innovation and technology in food labelling, and to consider preparing a project document for consideration by CCFL46.
 - b) That information would be sought through a CL to provide information to help in the development of the discussion paper.¹

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Member Governments and observers are invited to provide information on innovation and technology in food labelling. In making submissions, the members are requested to consider the following questions:
 - a) Considering the CCFL work on internet sales (REP19/FL Appendix III), what gaps remain for CCFL to address respecting the use of technology in the sale of foods or in conveying information about foods to the consumer or other buyers?
 - b) Do the current CCFL definitions for "label" and "labelling" sufficiently capture information that is not accompanying the food, such as mandatory or voluntary labelling information provided virtually using technology? If not, what is the best approach to address this gap, e.g. a new definition or revisions to the existing definitions?
 - c) Within your country / region, have you identified mandatory labelling information that can be provided through technology? Have you identified criteria for the use of technology in food labelling? If so, please elaborate.
 - d) What mandatory food labelling information is appropriate to be provided using technology, and under what circumstances?
 - i. Should CCFL outline specific types of labelling and circumstances when the use of technology may be appropriate, or outline broad criteria for its use?

¹ REP19/FL, para 105

- ii. Where should such provisions be placed, e.g. in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods*, the *Guidance on the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers*, or elsewhere?
- e) How should CCFL ensure that food labelling information conveyed using technology complies with general principles, including that it is not presented in a manner that is false or misleading?
- f) What should CCFL consider with respect to accessibility, format, and presentation of information provided using technology?
- g) Which other Codex texts should be reviewed for possible amendments that would facilitate the use of technology in food labelling?