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codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMUNICATION FROM OIML

Introduction

The OIML, the International Organization of Legal Metrology, is an intergovernmental organization, established by the OIML Convention (Paris, 1955).

The main objective of the OIML is to harmonize technical and metrological regulations for measuring instruments and measurements. To this end, the OIML develops and publishes Recommendations, which, under the terms of the WTO/TBT Agreement are considered international standards (model regulations).

For further information about the purpose and role of the OIML, please see the information document CAC/31 INF/12, submitted to the Thirty-first Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIML web site at: www.oiml.org.

OIML participation in Codex Alimentarius activities in the past year

Since the Thirty-first Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the OIML has participated in the following Codex activities:

- the Seventeen's Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certifications Systems (Cebu, Philippines, 24-28 November 2008);
- the Twenty-fifth Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (Paris, France, 30 March - 3 April 2009);
- the Thirty-seventh Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labeling (Galgary, Canada, 4-8 May 2009);
- the Electronic Working Group of CCFICS on the Proposed draft Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Foreign On-Site Audits and Inspections.

The OIML submitted a discussion paper to CCFL on the need to amend the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985) in line with OIML Recommendations regarding the declaration of the quantity of product in prepackages.

The OIML had identified some discrepancies between its Recommendation OIML R 87:2004 on the quantity of product in prepackages and CODEX STAN 1-1985 in the definitions of the content of a prepackage (the product) and packaging material

The CCFL considered the discussion paper in its 37th Session (see document ALINORM 09/32/22, paragraphs 122-124). The CCFL invited the OIML to submit a revised discussion paper, taking into account the comments made by delegates, for consideration in its next session.

Current OIML activities relevant to Codex

OIML's Technical Committee TC 6 is in the process of developing a certification system for the control of the quantity of product in prepackages.

The objectives of the (voluntary) certification system are:

- to provide confidence in the declaration of the nominal quantity in prepackages,
- to promote the uniform declaration of the nominal quantity in prepackages,
- to facilitate trade in prepackaged products,
- to increase the efficiency of the control of prepackages by authorities

OIML TC 6 is also currently revising OIML Recommendation R 79 on the labeling of prepackages.

For further information, please contact:

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