

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
TWENTY-NINTH SESSION
OTTAWA, CANADA, 1 - 4 MAY 2001**

**PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL STANDARD
FOR THE LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOODS:
QUANTITATIVE DECLARATION OF INGREDIENTS**

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

COMMENTS FROM:

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL (CI)**

PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOODS: QUANTITATIVE DECLARATION OF INGREDIENTS

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:

The European Community supports the aim of providing consumers with appropriate information about the composition of foodstuffs, and especially about the quantity of certain ingredients present in a product.

The relevant European Community law lays down rules determining the circumstances in which the quantity of the ingredients of foodstuffs must be declared on the labelling.

This legislation (Article 7 of Directive 2000/13/EC) is based however on the fact that a link may be established between the quantity of one or more ingredients in a product and the choice a consumer makes.

Generally speaking, therefore, the quantity of an ingredient must be mentioned:

- where the ingredient is included in the sales name of the product or is normally associated with that name;
- where the ingredient is emphasised on the label;
- where the ingredient is essential for characterising the product.

The European Community, however, questions the justification and the objective need to show systematically the quantity of each ingredient above a certain percentage by weight in relation to the total weight of the product (for example 5%).

In the case of the categories mentioned in point 5.1.3 of the draft, moreover, their scope should be defined and clarified.

In any event, the European Community does not consider it justified to propose that the quantity of an ingredient appear twice on a label, which is what point 5.1.3 of the draft could lead to in the case of ingredients representing more than 5% of a product and falling within one of the categories mentioned in point 5.1.3.

CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL (CI):

Consumers International and many of its members worldwide have taken a keen interest in these QUID proposal which would enable consumers to make real comparisons on the

basis of the percentage of ingredients present and also better informed value for money decisions.

Consumers International fully supports these proposals at Step 3.