

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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AGENDA ITEM NO. 7(A)

CX/FL 03/07

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
THIRTY-FIRST SESSION
OTTAWA, CANADA, 28 APRIL - 2 MAY 2003**

**DRAFT AMENDMENT TO *THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE
LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOODS* (DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
LABELLING OF FOODS OBTAINED THROUGH CERTAIN TECHNIQUES OF
GENETIC MODIFICATION/GENETIC ENGINEERING):**

DEFINITIONS

(ALINORM 03/22 - APPENDIX III)

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 6

COMMENTS FROM:

**BRAZIL
CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL (CI)**

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LABELLING OF FOODS OBTAINED THROUGH CERTAIN TECHNIQUES OF GENETIC MODIFICATION/GENETIC ENGINEERING (DRAFT AMENDMENT TO *THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOODS*): DEFINITIONS (CL 2001/22-FL)

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 6

BRAZIL :

Brazil understands that the title must be kept, including the expression “**and Food Ingredients**”, after the word “...foods”, like the following:

“Draft Recommendations for Labelling of Foods **and Food Ingredients** obtained through certain techniques of genetic modification/genetic engineering. “

Justification: to be coherent with the definition of ”Food and Food Ingredients” (Section 2, Definitions of Terms, Appendix III), and with the title of the document “Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Labelling of Food **and Food Ingredients** Obtained Through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering: Labelling Provisions” (Appendix IV, Alinorm 03/22).

Section 2. Definition of Terms

We suggest numbering the terms in the order presented in the text:

- 2.1. “Food and food ingredients obtained through certain techniques of genetic modification /genetic engineering”
- 2.2. “Organism”
- 2.3. “Genetically modified / engineered organism”
- 2.4. “Modern Biotechnology”

“**Modern Biotechnology** – Brazil supports to maintain the definition of “*Modern Biotechnology*” on the draft, unless this expression is not used on food labelling.

CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL (CI):

Section 2. Definition of Terms

Consumers International (CI) supported the present set of definitions as part of a compromise to move the definitions to step 8. Now that the definitions have been sent back to step 6, we can continue to support the present definitions, but only if it is made clear that the wording on the label may be different-more understandable to consumers-than what appears in the definitions section. In that regard, we strongly support the inclusion of footnote 2, which states “The terminology used in this section on definitions should not determine the terminology for use on food labels.” For the definition section, we understand the logic of using "modern biotechnology," as this is the term used by other Codex fora, such as the Ad Hoc Task Force on Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology, as well as the definition in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. We also think that the other definitions in the section should remain. But we do not think the term "modern biotechnology" should be permitted on

food labels as it is too vague and misleading to consumers. Surveys of CI's member organizations throughout the world clearly show the preference for the term "genetically modified" or "genetically engineered," rather than vague terms such as "product of modern biotechnology," "product of gene technology," etc. which are too vague and not understandable to consumers.