

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8(A)**

**CX/FL 03/9**

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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**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING  
AND MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS:  
DRAFT REVISED SECTION 5 - CRITERIA  
(ALINORM 03/22, APPENDIX II & CL 2002/37-FL)**

**GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 6**

**COMMENTS FROM:**

**NEW ZEALAND  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING,  
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**GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 6**

**NEW ZEALAND:**

New Zealand supports the proposed amendment to section 5, but we wish to comment on the wording in square brackets (5.1(a), second indent). We note that chemical synthesis is allowed, under exceptional circumstances, for substances used for plant disease and pest and weed control, as set out in 5.1 (b), third indent. We do not see a difference in principle for substances used for fertilization and soil conditioning purposes.

It would be useful however to provide some guidance on what is meant by "*exceptional circumstances*". Such guidance would need to cover the ecological, technical and economic justification for such circumstances.

We also suggest that the last indent in sections (a) and (b) could have added to them "*or a limited period of time*", so that it is signaled that some of these things may have a specific termination date. This can be used as a way of encouraging research into alternatives.

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:**

During the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling in Halifax on 6-10 May 2002, exceptional circumstances were considered in regard to the acceptability of chemical processes that may be considered for the extraction of carriers and binders for fertilisers and soil conditioners.

The Delegation of Spain, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, expressed its objections to the inclusion of such chemical processes. The aforementioned Codex Committee therefore agreed to place the exception mentioned in Section 5.1 (a) in square brackets for further consideration.

The European Community wants to point out again its reservation with regard to the acceptance of chemical processes in the Codex Guidelines. Moreover, the European Community considers that those delegations in the Codex requesting this inclusion should provide the necessary evidences of the need of these processes.