

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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ALINORM 79/22-A

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirteenth Session, Rome, 3-14 December 1979

REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Rome, 28-30 November 1979

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fourteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, hosted by the Government of Canada, was held in Rome, Italy, 28-30 November, 1979. The Session was opened by Mr. R. Higham, Permanent Representative of Canada to FAO. Mr. R.S. McGee, Director, Consumer Fraud Protection Branch, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Canada, was Chairman.
2. Representatives from 27 countries and from FAO and WHO were present as well as observers from 3 international organizations (see Appendix I for List of Participants).
3. Mr. G.O. Kermode, Chief of FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, expressed on behalf of FAO and WHO the Organizations' appreciation of the Government of Canada's hosting of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, in particular, for the very successful Thirteenth meeting held in Ottawa, 16-20 July 1979 and for making arrangements to hold its present Session at FAO Headquarters to facilitate the progress of work on standards at the Thirteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. He also expressed the appreciation of the Organizations for the offer from the Canadian Government to host the new Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins, and the excellent work of the Canadian Codex Secretariat.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Committee agreed to the adoption of the Agenda with a minor rearrangement as suggested by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

5. The Committee had before it CX/FL 79/2A dealing with matters of interest arising from the Thirteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. At the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to discuss the endorsement of proposed amendments to certain provisions of the General Standard for Irradiated Foods and of the General Labelling Standard for Food Additives under Item 5.
6. This Committee noted that the Committee on Food Additives had agreed that the class names of food additives should be revised, as proposed by this Committee, and that governments comments should be requested on the list of class names as contained in Appendix IX to ALINORM 79/12A. The Chairman appreciated the action taken by the Committee on Food Additives and expressed the view that the Committee on Food Labelling should be informed of the progress of the work in due course.

7. The Secretariat referred briefly to the Fourth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa and the Sixth Session of the Committee on General Principles which had met in September and October, respectively. Since the reports of these Sessions had not yet been issued to Member Countries, it was proposed to consider matters of interest arising from these reports at the next Session of this Committee in November 1980 to give governments the opportunity to study the reports concerned (ALINORM 79/28 and ALINORM 79/35). The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Committee on General Principles had decided that, in connection with the use of the phrase "in accordance with the law and custom of the country in which the product is sold" it was appropriate to include a paragraph in the Introduction to Codex Standards issued for acceptance, requesting governments to indicate their specific requirements with regard to such provisions. These provisions would be attracted by a footnote.

CONSIDERATION OF PROVISIONS FOR DATE MARKING SUBMITTED BY OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

8. The Committee had before it document CX/FL 79/3A, entitled "Progress Report on the Inclusion of Date Marking Requirements in Codex Standards", prepared by the delegation of Australia.

9. The Chairman thanked the delegation of Australia for preparing the excellent status report and noted that Appendix III of the document showed that twelve out of fifteen Commodity Committees have addressed themselves to the question of date marking. However, he also noted that there was little consistency among commodity committees in elaborating date marking provisions in standards for which they are responsible.

10. The Committee agreed that governments be requested to comment on document CX/FL 79/3A and that the Canadian Secretariat collate the comments received as background to a discussion on criteria to be used in date marking for the next full session of the Committee. On this basis, it was agreed that the endorsements to be considered by the Committee at this Session would be done within the framework of existing guidelines on date marking which had already been approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its Twelfth Session.

11. The Committee's attention was directed specifically to a request from the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products in which that Committee requested the views of the Labelling Committee concerning date marking of products classified as shelf-stable, perishable prepackaged meat products and perishable meat products in distribution containers.

12. In addition to the decision to consider date marking within the framework of existing date marking guidelines, the Committee also agreed that the special problem referred to it by the Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products should be considered as a special item following the discussion on endorsement of labelling provisions in Agenda Item 5.

ENDORSEMENT OF LABELLING PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS

13. The delegation of the Republic of Argentina made a general statement on the labelling provision concerning the "country of origin", as it considered that this provision should be mandatory for the labelling of containers, so that the consumers could know immediately and clearly the origin of the product they acquired. In summarizing, in view of the requirements of the legislation of Argentina the products which did not bear the declaration of the country of origin could not circulate within their jurisdiction.

DRAFT GENERAL STANDARD FOR IRRADIATED FOODS AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 79/12, APPENDIX X)

14. The Committee recalled that the labelling provisions in the above Standard had been endorsed at its Thirteenth Session. The Committee examined the amendment proposed by the Committee on Food Additives at its Thirteenth Session, to include one more example of a statement to indicate the irradiation treatment and to substitute the term e.g. for i.e. in the second sentence of Section 5 - Labelling (see Appendix II to ALINORM 79/12A). The Committee endorsed the above amendments.

15. With regard to the labelling requirements for irradiated products used as ingredients (second generation), the Committee reaffirmed its views expressed at its Thirteenth Session that no mention of irradiation treatment need appear in the list of ingredients for products containing irradiated ingredients.

16. It was noted that this type of product was not included in the General Standard for Irradiated Foods elaborated by the Committee on Food Additives. The Committee decided to recommend that the above statement should be taken into consideration when preparing documentation concerning the revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (CAC/RS 1-1969).

DRAFT GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF FOOD ADDITIVES WHEN SOLD AS SUCH AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 79/12, APPENDIX IX)

17. The Committee noted that the Committee on Food Additives at its Thirteenth Session had proposed an amendment to Section 5 of the above Standard, entitled "Mandatory Labelling of Prepackaged Food Additives sold other than by Retail" to replace "non-retail containers" for "bulk containers" (paragraphs 51(a)-(e) of ALINORM 79/12A). Several delegations expressed the view that they could not agree with the provision as amended referring to food additives destined for further industrial processing. It was pointed out that it was questionable to require date marking provisions for bulk packs and that the guidelines on Labelling of Non-Retail Containers (under elaboration) did not require this. It was further pointed out that food additives were different in their nature from foodstuffs and the Committee generally felt that the Committee on Food Additives should be requested to reconsider the matter. The Committee did not endorse the amendment to the above Standard proposed in paragraph 51(d) of ALINORM 79/12A.

DRAFT STANDARDS FOR BOUILLONS AND CONSOMMES AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 78/9, APPENDIX II)

18. The Committee agreed with a recommendation by the Secretariat to change the word "para(s)", as found in 8.1.1 to 8.1.6 to "section" in the interests of uniform use of terminology. Furthermore, it was agreed that the standard preamble which had inadvertently been omitted would be added.

19. The Committee noted that while bulk labelling provisions had been removed from the draft standard for Bouillons and Consommés, other standards containing such provisions should be endorsed temporarily pending finalization of the bulk labelling guidelines. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that this temporary endorsement should be footnoted, as appropriate, in applicable standards with a phrase such as "endorsed temporarily pending finalization of guidelines on the labelling of non-retail containers".

20. The delegation of Japan explained the date marking requirements of their country which made the date of manufacture mandatory. This was considered useful for hygiene requirements and for information of the consumer. However, for perishable and semi-perishable foodstuffs, Japanese legislation required a combination of the period of minimum durability and date of manufacture to be declared. The delegation of Japan also suggested to delete the figures for serving sizes given in Section 8.9 since they differed from country to country. The Committee noted the above comments.

21. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the above standard.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR NATURAL MINERAL WATERS AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 78/19, APPENDIX II)

22. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the above standard.

GENERAL STANDARD FOR EDIBLE FATS AND OILS NOT COVERED BY INDIVIDUAL STANDARDS (CAC/RS 19-1969) - REVISED TEXT AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 79/17, APPENDIX II)

23. The Committee was informed that the labelling provisions of the above standard had been revised with regard to the following sections: 7.1.1 (name of the food), 7.6 (lot identification) and 7.7 (date marking and storage instructions).

24. The Committee considered the above amendments and agreed to endorse the date marking provisions in the light of its general decision on endorsement of date marking provisions.

25. It was agreed that Section 7.7.2 dealing with storage instructions should be amended to make the provision mandatory in nature. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that a similar amendment should be made in all Codex Standards for Fats and Oils which contained provisions for storage instructions.

26. One delegation proposed that the above general standard should include adequate reference to special labelling provisions for polyunsaturated fatty acids. The Secretariat recalled that this subject had already been discussed by the Committee on Fats and Oils which had requested guidance from this Committee at its Thirteenth Session. This Committee had advised that such special labelling provisions could best be considered under the ambit of the nutrition labelling guidelines now at an early stage of elaboration (see paragraph 132 of ALINORM 79/22).

27. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions in the revised version of the above standard.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR EDIBLE LOW ERUCIC ACID RAPESEED OIL AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 79/17, APPENDIX III).

28. The Committee had before it document CX/FL 79/4A which proposed amendments to Sections 7.1.1, 7.6 and 7.7 of this Standard which had been previously endorsed.

29. The Committee agreed with the proposed amendments (see also paragraphs 23-25) and noted that the word "alimentaire" would have to be added to Section 7.1.1 of the French text.

30. One delegation questioned the need for a List of Ingredients requirement in specific oil standards. It was pointed out that this requirement related to the label declaration of specified food additives which may be added to such oils.

31. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the above standard as amended.

DRAFT STANDARDS AT STEP 8 FOR:

Edible Coconut Oil

Edible Palm Oil

Edible Palm Kernel Oil

Edible Grapeseed Oil

Edible Babassu Oil

(Appendices IV - VIII of ALINORM 79/17)

32. The Committee endorsed the labelling sections of the above draft standards, drawing attention to its general decision on date marking (paragraph 24).

AMENDMENTS TO STEP 9 STANDARD FOR FATS AND OILS

33. The Committee had before it (CX/FL 79/4A). Section 5(f) of that paper summarized the proposed amendments to the labelling provisions in Step 9 Standards resulting from the Ninth and Tenth Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, which concerned provisions for date marking and storage instructions (7.7) and for lot identification (7.6). The Committee also agreed to the proposal to amend the section on the name of the food to include the term "food" in connection with "products" in all Step 9 standards for Fats and Oils.

34. The Committee endorsed the above proposed amendments to Codex Standards for Fats and Oils at Step 9.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR CANNED MACKEREL AND JACK MACKEREL AT STEP 8 (APPENDIX II TO ALINORM 79/18)

35. The Committee noted that the labelling provisions of the above Standard included a section on presentation (Section 7.2). However, it was pointed out that Section 7.1 concerning the name of the food also contained several sub-sections dealing with provisions related to the types, styles and packing media. The Committee recommended to merge these two sections and instructed the Secretariat to prepare, in cooperation with the Chairman of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, an editorially revised version of 7.1 and 7.2 which would not need to be reconsidered by the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products.

36. One delegation expressed concern with regard to the use in Section 7.1.5 of the phrase "provided that it does not mislead the consumer in the country in which the product is distributed" since it would permit countries to deviate from the standard without informing the Commission. Furthermore, it was difficult to assess in which country a term such as natural juice would constitute a misleading provision.

37. The Chairman suggested that it might be useful to attract the General Guidelines on Claims, to assist governments in evaluating their position with reference to the use of the term "natural".

38. The Committee decided to delete the phrase in quotes contained in paragraph 36 and to bring the text of the provision into line with Section 4.2 of the General Guidelines on Claims.

39. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the second paragraph of Section 7.1.1 which also contained reference to "misleading the consumer in the country in which the product is distributed". It was explained to the Committee that this related only to circumstances where products were sold under a traditional name in a very limited area and did not enter international trade. The provision did therefore not apply to international commerce and could be put in its proper perspective by turning it into an explanatory footnote, in conjunction with the first paragraph of Section 7.1.1

40. The delegation of Senegal referred to the conclusion of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products that canned mackerel had a long shelf life and did not, therefore, require date marking (paragraph 43 of ALINORM 79/18).

41. The delegation pointed out that the shelf life of such products depended on storage time and climatic conditions. They further pointed out that in African countries such products are frequently subject to abusive storage and shipping conditions involving high temperature which could result in spoiled products. It was, therefore, suggested to establish special date marking provisions for products destined for tropical countries, to assist food control authorities.

42. Several delegations stressed that they could not agree with the approach taken by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, as reported in paragraph 43 of ALINORM 79/18. Although recognizing that the product concerned was a thermally processed shelf-stable product they could not agree with the statement that date marking of such a product would be of no advantage to the consumer. The delegation of Norway pointed out that the above considerations were applicable to all canned shelf-stable food products.

43. Some delegations expressed concern about the absence in the labelling provision for drained weight declaration, since the drained weight provision in Section 3.5.1 permitted certain types of products to have a drained weight of the fish ingredient of as low as 50-60%. They expressed also concern about the wording of paragraph 42 of ALINORM 79/18.

44. The delegation of Spain, noting that Section 7.3 permitted the use of class names to declare the oil when it is used as a packing media requested that the specific declaration of the type of oil used in the canned product should be required, taking into account the different characteristics of the food in terms of the type of oil utilized. The delegation also indicated that if this proposal was not accepted, they would reserve their position, as the Spanish legislation only used the class name "oil" for the olive oil. This declaration was supported by the delegation of Argentina which indicated that the legislation of that country contains similar requirements.

45. The Committee decided to endorse the labelling provisions of the above Standard as amended and to draw the attention of the Commission to its concern both regarding the reason which led to the conclusions of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products concerning date marking and drained weight, as well as the reasons given for not requiring the declaration of drained weight.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR PICKLED CUCUMBERS AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 79/20, APPENDIX III)

46. Several delegations expressed concern about the degree of latitude allowed in Section 8.3 with reference to declaration of net contents.

47. There was general agreement that commodity committees should make every effort to make labelling provisions as clear and specific as possible and that this issue should be reviewed by the Consultant selected to revise the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. In this regard, the Secretariat noted that some commodity committees attract relevant provisions from the essential composition section of standards in an effort to clarify labelling provisions. However, there is little consistency among committees in this area.

48. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the above standard.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR CANNED CARROTS AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 79/20, APPENDIX IV)

49. The Committee agreed with the view of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany that the term "baby whole", when translated into other languages could be confusing or misleading to the consumer. It was agreed that the footnote on the definition for "baby whole carrots" found in Section 1.3(b) of Appendix IV, ALINORM 79/20, should appear also in Section 7.1.2.

50. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the above standard as amended.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR DRIED APRICOTS AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 79/20, APPENDIX V)

51. The Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that the style known as "Kamaradin" as stated in Section 7.1.2(f) could create difficulties when translated into other languages. The Committee agreed that this term should be qualified in some way and agreed with a suggestion by the Chairman to place the words "dried apricot pulp or paste prepared as a sheet or flake" in brackets after the word "Kamaradin".

52. The Committee also agreed with a suggestion by the Secretariat that the words "form of presentation" in Section 7.1.2 be replaced by the word "style" in the interests of uniform terminology.

53. The Committee adopted the labelling provisions of the above standard as amended.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDARD FOR CANNED PEACHES (CAC/RS. 14-1969)

54. The Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that the purpose of this amendment was to bring the Standard for Canned Peaches in line with other Step 9 Standards for canned fruit with respect to labelling provisions.

55. The attention of the Committee was also drawn to para.30 of ALINORM 79/20 which noted that some delegations at the session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables considered that, the label declaration "in water" or "packed in water" could be misleading, where the packing medium could consist of varying proportions of water and peach or other juices.

56. Several delegations shared the view expressed in para.55 above.

57. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the above standard on the understanding that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables review the packing media labelling requirements for all Step 9 standards.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR BLACKCURRANT JUICE PRESERVED EXCLUSIVELY BY PHYSICAL MEANS (APPENDIX I, ALINORM 79/14)

58. The Committee was reminded that the labelling provisions of the above standard had already been endorsed and that only the amended Sections 7.1.1 and 7.7.2 would need to be reconsidered. The Committee noted that Section 7.7.2 dealing with claims for Vitamin C had already been deleted from Appendix I to ALINORM 79/14 and appeared in the text of ALINORM 78/14. The Committee agreed with deleting Section 7.7.2 dealing with claims for Vitamin C from the standard.

59. The Committee fully discussed Section 7.1.1 concerning the name of the food and especially whether the term "sweetened blackcurrant juice" should be used for products which contained very small quantities of sugars added for corrective purposes. It was pointed out, that whereas the declaration of such addition of sugars could be considered as a general issue, relatively large amounts of sugars would have to be added to obtain a sweet product. In this case, it was therefore felt that the term "sweetened blackcurrant juice" was misleading to the consumer if only small amounts of sugars had been added to the product. The Committee amended provision 7.1.1 to read as follows:

"7.1.1 The name of the food shall be "blackcurrant juice". Where sugar or sugars have been added, the term "contains X% of added sugar" shall appear in close proximity to the name where X times 10 represents the amount of sugar or sugars added in grammes per kilogrammes of the final product".

60. With regard to Section 7.8 (bulk packs) the Committee agreed that this provision should be dealt with as indicated in para 19 and temporarily endorsed the provision on Bulk Packs. It was further agreed that the same action be taken in all three standards at Step 8 submitted to the Commission by the Group of Experts on Fruit Juices. The Committee endorsed the labelling provision in the above standard as amended.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR PULPY NECTARS OF CERTAIN SMALL FRUITS (ALINORM 79/14, APPENDIX III)

61. The labelling provisions for this standard had been endorsed previously and thus the Committee's attention was drawn to amendments found in Sections 8.1.1 and 8.2.1 which dealt with product nomenclature and declaration of added water.

62. The Committee endorsed the new labelling provisions in the above-noted standard.

AMENDMENT OF STEP 9 STANDARDS FOR APRICOT, PEACH AND PEAR NECTARS AND NON-PULPY BLACKCURRANT NECTAR (ALINORM 79/14, paras 66-67)

63. At its Thirteenth Session, the Group of Experts considered that the declaration of the actual minimum fruit ingredient content instead of the prescribed minimum level and the declaration of added water in the list of ingredients would provide better information to the consumer and thus decided to amend the relevant sections of the above standards.

64. The Committee endorsed the above noted labelling amendments.

QUICK FROZEN BRUSSEL SPROUTS AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 79/25, APPENDIX V)

65. The delegation of Sweden expressed the view that Section 6.8 should be amended to provide keeping or storage instructions throughout the full chain of distribution. This delegation suggested that Section 6.8 be amended by removing the words "from the time they are purchased from the retailer to the time of their use". The Committee did not agree with the proposed amendment and the delegation of Sweden reversed its position.

66. With regard to Section 6.9 (Bulk Packs) the Committee agreed that this provision should be dealt with as indicated in para.19 and temporarily endorsed the provision on Bulk Packs. It was further agreed that the same action be taken in all three quick frozen food standards submitted to the Commission at Step 8.

67. The Committee endorsed the labelling provision of the above-noted standard as amended.

QUICK FROZEN GREEN AND WAX BEANS (ALINORM 79/25, APPENDIX VI)

68. The delegation of Sweden reserved its position with respect to the additional requirements found in Section 6.8 of this standard for the same reasons noted in paragraph 65 above.

69. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the above-noted standard.

QUICK FROZEN FRENCH FRIED POTATOES (ALINORM 79/25, APPENDIX VIII)

70. The delegation of Sweden again reserved its position with respect to the additional requirements found in Section 6.7 of this standard for the same reasons noted in para.65 above.

71. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the fact that at its Twelfth Session, the provision for declaration of food additives in Quick Frozen Cauliflower was endorsed even though such additives in Section 4.1 of the standard are actually processing aids and do not require label declaration. The Committee agreed that this provision should be brought into line with other Quick Frozen Vegetable standards by amending Section 6.2 to exclude declaration of food additives found in Section 4.1 and 4.2. The Committee agreed that this amendment should be brought to the attention of the Commission.

72. The Committee also agreed with a suggestion that Section 6.1.1 be amended by including the footnote concerning other designations for French Fried Potatoes into the text of 6.1.1.

73. The question was raised whether the decision taken by the Twelfth Session of the Commission with regard to the use of the phrase "in accordance with the law and custom of the country in which the food is sold", should be interpreted to apply strictly to that specific phrase. It was pointed out that there were other instances where governments could apply national requirements within the context of certain provision (e.g., Section 6.1.1 as amended). The Committee decided to draw the attention of the Commission to the problems outlined above.

74. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the above-noted standard as amended.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR "GLUTEN-FREE" FOODS AT STEP 8 (APPENDIX II, ALINORM 79/26)

75. The Committee agreed with the amendments proposed to the already endorsed labelling provisions set out in CX/FL 79/3A.

76. The delegation of the United Kingdom informed the Committee that the United Kingdom had proposed amendments at Step 8 to this Standard which would also concern the Section on Labelling. These amendments would be discussed at the Thirteenth Session of the Commission.

77. The delegation of Norway drew the attention of the Committee to comments on Section 5 (Claims) of the Standard which were in the process of being submitted to the Thirteenth Session of the Commission. These comments pointed out that provisions contained in the General Guidelines on Claims and in the General Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Prepackaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses (at Step 5), when finalized and adopted by the Commission, might prevent the use of promotional literature aimed at the medical and paramedical profession.

78. It was explained that both the guidelines and the Standard mentioned above did contain a provision for exemption of those products for which a specific Codex Standard had been elaborated. It was further explained that the definition of claims applied to labelling and advertisement. It appeared that Section 5 on Claims was acceptable.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STANDARD FOR CHOCOLATE (CAC/RS 87-1976) AT STEP 5
(ALINORM 79/10, APPENDIX II)

79. The delegation of the European Economic Community brought the attention of the Committee to a discrepancy between the English and French texts of Section 7.1.15. The following correction to the French text was proposed:

"7.1.15 Chocolat aromatisé

Les produits décrits au paragraphe 2.2 et conformes aux spécifications du paragraphe 3.2 de la présente norme doivent être désignés dans la norme française comme "chocolat", en indiquant l'arôme caractérisant autre que l'arôme de chocolat ou de lait."

80. The Committee endorsed the amended labelling provisions as found in Sections 7.1.15 and 7.2.2 and agreed with the redrafted French text shown in para. 79 above.

REDRAFT OF GENERAL STANDARD FOR CHEESE A-6 AT STEP 7

81. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the fact that this standard represented the outcome of some 10 years of effort in the Milk and Milk Products Committee and represents the best compromise which could be developed during this protracted period of negotiation.

82. The Committee agreed with a proposal that Section 4.8 (Date Marking) be amended by inserting the words "accompanied by storage instructions" after the word "manufacture". The amended phrase thus reads as follows:

- "fresh cheese packaged by the manufacturer, accompanied by storage instructions, and"

83. The delegation of Japan expressed the view that there should be no exemption for ingredients as provided for in Section 4.2 as a full list of ingredients is essential consumer information.

84. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the above noted standard as amended.

85. The delegation of Australia expressed the view that governments, at the time of acceptance, must provide details of their position with respect to the provision for use of variety, coined or fanciful names as provided in Section 7.1 of this Standard.

STANDARD FOR EXTRA HARD GRATING CHEESE (C-35) AT STEP 7

86. The delegation of Australia stressed the need for phrases in standards such as "in accordance with the law and custom of the country in which the product is sold" to be used sparingly so as to not unduly impede the progress of international standardization. Attention was specifically drawn to consideration of this matter by the Sixth Session of the Committee on General Principles and the recommendation of that Committee that countries should be invited to indicate specifically the position regarding such provisions when communicating their acceptance to the Secretariat. The Committee noted and endorsed this viewpoint.

87. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions for the above noted Standard.

REDRAFTS OF GENERAL STANDARDS FOR PROCESSED CHEESE A-8(a), (b) AND (c) AT STEP 7 (CX 5/70, NINETEENTH SESSION)

88. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions for the above-noted standards.

OTHER BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF DATE MARKING PROVISIONS FOR PROCESSED MEAT PRODUCTS

89. As decided earlier during the session (see paragraph 12) the Committee considered the deliberations of the Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products with regard to date marking provisions for inclusion in the standards elaborated by that Committee (Section 5 of Appendix II to CX/FL 79/3A). One delegation was of the opinion that the proposals set out in Section 5 of the paper referred only to processed meat products. The Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products should therefore have the possibility of commencing amendment of the relevant standards.

90. The delegation of Denmark expressed the view that it would appear to be impossible at this time for the Committee to give advice on the provisions concerned and felt that it might be more appropriate to await the revision of the Guidelines on date marking before commencing with the amendment of Step 9 standards. The Chairman noted that the Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products had fulfilled its obligation with respect to Date Marking and the Committee agreed that it would be premature to amend the Step 9 standards while the guidelines on date marking were being further elaborated.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING DATE MARKING

91. It was pointed out that it would be difficult, at the present time, to define or to agree to any proposed definition of the term "shelf stable". The question was raised whether the determination of shelf stability was of such a technical nature that it should be left to Commodity Committees which would have the appropriate expertise.

92. Several delegations were in favour of leaving these technical considerations to the Commodity Committees and considered that the function of this Committee should be restricted to endorsement of the date marking proposals submitted by these Committees.

93. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, stressed that the Labelling Committee should accept technical advice but had, however, the responsibility for establishing a policy with relation to uniform implementation of issues such as date marking.

94. The delegation of the United Kingdom supported by the delegation of Norway agreed with the statement of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, and went on to point out that whereas it was the responsibility of the individual commodity committees to decide on the keepability of their products it was the responsibility of the Labelling Committee to lay down general policy on the date marking of shelf stable and perishable products and to decide on the definitions of these terms.

95. The Canadian Secretariat undertook to distribute CX/FL 79/3A to governments together with a covering Circular Letter to request comments on date marking. The Canadian Secretariat would prepare appropriate documentation on this matter for the next session of the Committee. In the meantime, work on date marking undertaken by various Committees should continue with exception of amending Step 9 standards. This work would be taken into consideration by the Labelling Committee in the further elaboration of the guidelines.

96. The delegation of Argentina drew attention to their legislation which required declaration of expiry date and date of manufacture.

97. The delegation of Sweden felt that, whereas the paper prepared by Australia dealt mainly with the date of minimum durability, it might be of advantage for governments to consider in detail also the alternative forms of date marking in Sections 3 and 5 of the Codex Guidelines on Date Marking. The Canadian Secretariat agreed to draw attention to these sections in its Circular Letter (see paragraph 95).

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

95. With the approval of the Commission, the Fifteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling will convene for a full Session in Ottawa, Canada, 10-14 November, 1980.

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