

## CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 4

CX/FL 19/45/4

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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

**CODEx COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING**

**Forty-fifth Session**

**Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 13 – 17 May 2019**

**CONSIDERATION OF LABELLING PROVISIONS IN DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS**

**(CCCPL, CCFH, CCNFSU and CCSCH)**

**Background**

According to the Procedural Manual<sup>1</sup>, Codex general subject committees, CCFL inclusive, may establish general provisions on matters within their terms of reference. These general provisions should only be incorporated into Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise.

The Procedural Manual also states that: “the Commodity committees shall refer any exemptions from, or additions to, the reference to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985) as indicated in the section on food labelling in the *Format for Codex Commodity Standards* to the Committee on Food Labelling for endorsement”.

**Action requested**

In line with the terms of reference of CCFL and the above requirement, the Committee is requested to consider and endorse the labelling provisions forwarded by the following Codex Committees as presented in the Appendix.

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<sup>1</sup> Procedural Manual (latest edition)

## APPENDIX

**A. COMMITTEE ON CEREALS, PULSES AND LEGUMES (CCCPL)**

**Note:** CAC41 adopted<sup>1</sup> the draft standard for quinoa at Step 8, subject to endorsement of the labelling provisions by CCFL.

**Standard for quinoa****8. LABELLING**

The product covered by this standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985).

**8.1 Name of the Product**

The product name appearing on the label shall be “quinoa” or “processed quinoa”. Optional information, such as product origin, quality, colour, may be included.

**8.2 Non-retail containers**

Information on product of non-retail shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

**B. COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE**

**Note:** CCFH50 has forwarded the proposed draft code of practice on food allergen management for food business operators to Step 5 for adoption by CAC42. CCFH has submitted **paragraphs 158 and 159** for endorsement and requested advice from CCFL on the appropriateness of using precautionary allergen labelling statement (see CX/FL 19/45/2 for the relevant sections on precautionary allergen labelling)

**Proposed draft code of practice on food allergen management for food business operators****9.3 Labelling**

157. Refer to the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969).

**158. The *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985) applies.**

**159. The *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* lists the foods and ingredients known to cause hypersensitivity that “shall always be declared” on the label.**

160. [Precautionary allergen labelling should only be used after an assessment of the likelihood of allergen cross-contact has been carried out and a risk to consumers has been identified. Following risk assessment, all possible mitigation measures available to eliminate the likelihood should be explored prior to the use of a precautionary allergen label. Precautionary allergen labels that are necessary following this process can help to inform FBOs and consumers on the likelihood that the products might contain an allergen (other than those that are listed as ingredients) in situations where:

- allergen cross-contact for a specific food cannot be prevented using GHPs;
- allergen cross-contact occurs sporadically; and
- the allergen may be present at levels that, based on an assessment of risk, could result in adverse health consequences to the majority of allergic consumers.]

161. [However, in order to not limit food choices to allergic consumers, the use of precautionary allergen labelling should be restricted to those situations in which cross-contact cannot be controlled to the extent that the product does not present a risk to the allergic consumer.]

<sup>1</sup> REP18/CAC, para 56(i), Appendix III

**C. COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES**

**Note:** CCNFSDU40 has forwarded the proposed draft revised *Standard for follow-up formula*: Section A: follow-up formula for older infants to Step 5 for adoption by CAC42.

**Proposed draft revised *Standard for follow-up formula* (CXS 156-1987)****Section A: follow-up formula for older infants****9. LABELLING**

The requirements of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985), the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CXG 2-1985) and the *Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CXG 23-1997) apply to follow-up formula for older infants. These requirements include a prohibition on the use of nutrition and health claims for foods for infants except where specifically provided for in relevant Codex Standards or national legislation.

**9.1 The Name of the Product**

9.1.1 The text of the label and all other information accompanying the product shall be written in the appropriate language(s).

9.1.2 The name of the product shall be Follow-up Formula for Older Infants as defined in Section 2.1, or any appropriate designation indicating the true nature of the product, in accordance with national or regional usage.

9.1.3 The sources of protein in the product shall be clearly shown on the label.

a) if [name of animal] milk is the only source of protein[\*], the product may be labelled 'Follow-up Formula for Older Infants Based on [name of animal] milk [protein].

b) If [name of plant] is the only source of protein[\*], the product may be labelled 'Follow-up Formula for Older Infants Based on [name of plant] [protein].

c) If [name of animal] milk and [name of plant] are the sources of protein[\*], the product may be labelled 'Follow-up Formula for Older Infants Based on [name of animal] milk protein and [name of plant] protein' or 'Follow-up Formula for Older Infants Based on [name of plant] protein and [name of animal] milk protein'.

\*For clarity, addition of individual amino acids where needed to improve protein quality does not preclude use of the above labelling options.

9.1.4 A product which contains neither milk nor any milk derivative shall be labelled "contains no milk or milk products" or an equivalent phrase.

**9.2 List of ingredients**

9.2.1 A complete list of ingredients shall be declared on the label in descending order of proportion except that in the case of added vitamins and minerals, these ingredients may be arranged as separate groups for vitamins and minerals. Within these groups the vitamins and minerals need not be listed in descending order of proportion.

9.2.2 The specific name shall be declared for ingredients of animal or plant origin and for food additives. In addition, appropriate functional classes for these ingredients and additives may be included on the label. The food additives INS number may also be optionally declared.

**9.3 Declaration of Nutritive Value**

The declaration of nutrition information for follow-up formula for older infants shall contain the following information which should be in the following order:

a) the amount of energy, expressed in kilocalories (kcal) and/or kilojoules (kJ), and the number of grams of protein, carbohydrate and fat per 100 grams or per 100 millilitres of food as well as per 100 millilitres of food ready for use, when prepared according to the instructions on the label.

b) The total quantity of each vitamin, and mineral as listed in paragraph 3.1.3 of Section A and any other ingredient as listed in paragraph 3.2 of Section A per 100 grams or per 100 millilitres of the food as sold as well as per 100 millilitres of the food ready for use, when prepared according to the instructions on the label.

c) In addition, the declaration of nutrients in a) and b) per 100 kilocalories (or per 100 kilojoules) is permitted.

## 9.4 Date marking and Storage Instructions

**9.4.1 (i)** The “Best Before Date” or “Best Quality Before Date” shall be declared by the day, month and year except that for products with a shelf-life of more than three months, [at least] the month and year [shall be declared] [The day and year shall be declared by uncoded numbers with the year to be denoted by 2 or 4 digits, and the month shall be declared by letters or characters or numbers. Where only numbers are used to declare the date or where the year is expressed as only two digits, the competent authority should determine whether to require the sequence of the day, month, year, be given by appropriate abbreviations accompanying the date mark (e.g. DD/MM/YYYY or YYYY/DD/MM.)]

(ii) In the case of products requiring a declaration of month and year only, the date shall be introduced by the words “Best before end <insert date>; or “Best Quality before end <insert date>].

9.4.2 In addition to the date, any special conditions for the storage of the food shall be indicated [where they are required to support the integrity of the food and, where] the validity of the date depends thereon.

Where practicable, storage instructions shall be in close proximity to the date marking.

## 9.5 Information for use

**9.5.1** Ready to use products in liquid form should be used directly. Concentrated liquid products and powdered products, must be prepared with potable water that is safe or has been rendered safe by previous boiling before feeding, according to directions for use. Adequate directions for the appropriate preparation and handling should be in accordance with Good Hygienic Practice.

9.5.2 Adequate directions for the appropriate preparations and use of the product, including its storage and disposal after preparation, i.e. that product remaining after feeding should be discarded, shall appear on label.

9.5.3 The label shall carry clear graphic instructions illustrating the method of preparation of the product.

9.5.4 The directions should be accompanied by a warning and about health hazards of inappropriate preparation, storage and use.

9.5.5 Adequate directions regarding the storage of the product after the container has been opened, shall appear on the label.\

**9.5.6** The label of follow-up formula for older infants shall include a statement that the product shall not be introduced before 6 months of age, is not to be used as a sole source of nutrition and that older infants should receive complementary foods in addition to the product.

## 9.6 Additional Labelling Requirements

**9.6.1** Labels should not discourage breastfeeding. Each container label shall have a clear, conspicuous and easily readable message which includes the following points:

a) the words “important notice” or their equivalent;

b) the statement “Breast-milk is best food for your baby” or a similar statement as to the superiority of breastfeeding or breast-milk;

c) a statement that the product should only be used on advice of a health worker as to the need for its use and the proper method of use;

d) the statement; ‘The use of this product should not lead to cessation of continued breastfeeding’.

**9.6.2** The label shall have no pictures of infants, young children and women nor any other picture, text, or representation that might:

**9.6.2.1** idealize the use of follow-up formula for older infants;

**9.6.2.2** suggest use for infants under the age of 6 months (including references to milestones and stages);

**9.6.2.3** recommend or promote bottle feeding;

**9.6.2.4** undermine or discourage breastfeeding; or that makes a comparison to breast-milk, or suggests that the product is similar, equivalent to or superior to breast-milk;

**9.6.2.5** convey an endorsement or anything that may be construed as an endorsement by a professional or any other body, unless this has been specifically approved by relevant national or regional regulatory authorities.

**9.6.3** The terms “humanized”, “maternalized” or other similar terms shall not be used.

**9.6.4** Products shall be distinctly labelled in such a way as to avoid any risk of confusion between infant formula, follow-up formula for older infants, (name of product) for young children, and formula for special

medical purposes, in particular as to the text, images and colours used, to enable consumers to make a clear distinction between them. Cross promotion between product categories is not permitted on the [label/labelling] of the product.

#### **D. COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS (CCSCH)**

**Note:** CCSCH has forwarded the Proposed draft Standards for dried or dehydrated garlic; dried oregano, for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs – dried or dehydrated ginger; dried basil; dried floral parts – dried cloves; and for saffron to Step 5/8 or 5 for adoption by CAC42. The labelling provisions follow the format for standards on various spices. CCFL44 previously endorsed similar labelling provisions in the standards for cumin, dried thyme and black, white and green pepper.

#### **Proposed draft standard for dried or dehydrated garlic**

##### **8 LABELLING**

**8.1** The products covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985). In particular, the following specific provisions apply:

##### **8.2 Name of the product**

**8.2.1** The name of the product shall be as described in Section 2.1.

**8.2.2** The name of the product may include an indication of the style as described in Section 2.2.

**8.2.3** Species, variety or cultivar may be listed on the label.

##### **8.3 Country of origin/country of harvest**

**8.3.1** Country of origin/country of harvest shall be indicated, and the region of production may be indicated.

**8.3.2** Year of harvest may be indicated.

##### **8.4 Commercial Identification**

- Class/Grade, if applicable

- Size (optional)

**8.5** Inspection mark (optional)

##### **8.6 Labelling of non-retail containers**

Information for non-retail containers shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

#### **Proposed draft standard for dried leaves – dried basil**

##### **8 LABELLING**

**8.1** The products covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985). In particular, the following specific provisions apply.

##### **8.2 Name of the product<sup>1</sup>**

**8.2.1** The name of the product shall be as described in Section 2.1

**8.2.2** The name of the product may include an indication of the trade name and varietal type described in Table 1 and style 2 as described in Section 2.2.

##### **8.3 Country of origin/country of harvest**

**8.3.1** Country of origin/country of harvest shall be indicated and the region of production may be indicated.

**8.3.2** Year of harvest (optional)

##### **8.4 Commercial Identification**

- Class/Grade, if applicable

<sup>1</sup> The General name may be used if the product is a blend of the different species listed in Table 1. If a trade name is used then the product must be a minimum of 80% of the species listed for that trade name.

**8.5 Inspection mark (optional)****8.6 Labelling of non-retail containers**

Information for non-retail containers shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

**Proposed draft standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves****8 LABELLING**

**8.1** The products covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985). In particular, the following specific provisions apply:

**8.2 Name of the product**

**8.2.1** The name of the product shall be as described in Section 2.1

**8.2.2** The name of the product may include an indication of the style as described in Section 2.2.

**8.2.3** Variety or cultivar, trade name/type may be listed on the label

**8.3 Country of origin/country of harvest**

**8.3.1** Country of origin/country of harvest shall be indicated, and the region of production may be indicated.

**8.3.2** Year of harvest may be indicated.

**8.4 Commercial Identification**

- Class/Grade (if applicable)

- Size (optional)

**8.5 Inspection mark (optional)****8.6 Labelling of non-retail containers**

Information for non-retail containers shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

**Proposed draft standard for saffron****8 LABELLING**

**8.1** The products covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985). In particular, the following specific provisions apply:

**8.2 Name of the product**

**8.2.1** The name of the product shall be "saffron" as described in Section 2.1

**8.2.2** The name of the product may include an indication of the style as described in Section 2.2.

**8.2.3** Variety or cultivar may be listed on the label.

**8.3 Country of origin/country of harvest**

**8.3.1** Country of origin/country of harvest shall be indicated and the region of production may be indicated.

**8.3.2** Year of harvest may be indicated.

**8.4 Commercial Identification**

- Class/Grade, if applicable

**8.5 Inspection mark (optional)**

## 8.6 Labelling of non-retail containers

Information for non-retail containers shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, country of origin, packer, distributor or importer, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, country of origin, packer, distributor or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

### Proposed draft standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs – Dried or dehydrated ginger

#### 8 LABELLING

8.1 The products covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985). In particular, the following specific provisions shall apply:

#### 8.2 Name of the product

8.2.1 The name of the product shall be as described in Section 2.1

8.2.2 The name of the product may include an indication of the style as described in Section 2.2.

8.2.3 Variety or cultivar, trade name/type may be listed on the label.

#### 8.3 Country of origin/country of harvest

8.3.1 Country of origin/country of harvest shall be indicated, and the region of production may be indicated.

8.3.2 Year of harvest (optional)

#### 8.4 Commercial identification

- Class/Grade, if applicable
- Size (optional)

#### 8.5 Inspection mark (optional)

#### 8.6 Labelling of non-retail containers

Information for non-retail containers shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

### Proposed draft standard for dried oregano

#### 8 LABELLING

8.1 The products covered by this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985). In particular, the following specific provisions apply:

#### 8.2 Name of the product

8.2.1 The name of the product shall be “dried oregano” or “oregano” when the omission of the word dry would not mislead or confuse the consumer.

8.2.2 The name of the product shall include an indication of the trade name, varietal types as described in Table 1 and the style as described in Section 2.2.

#### 8.3 Country of harvest/origin

8.3.1 Country of origin/country of harvest shall be indicated and the region of production may be indicated.

8.3.2 Year of harvest (optional)

#### 8.4 Commercial identification

- Class/Grade, if applicable
- Size (optional)

#### 8.5 Inspection mark (optional)

#### 8.6 Labelling of non-retail containers

Information for non-retail containers shall be given either on the package or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.