

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 9

FL/47 CRD09

Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-seventh Session

Gatineau, Canada

15 – 19 May 2023

Discussion Paper on Labelling of Foods in Joint Presentation and Multipack Formats

(Comments from Burundi, European Union, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania)

Burundi

General comment: Burundi appreciates the work done by Colombia in identifying the gaps in the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985). The gaps identified may not provide enough evidence to start new work. In addition, Burundi recommends that Colombia refers to the recently published standard CXS-346 on non-retail containers, and identify gaps in that standard, also noting CXS-346 may cover multi-packs and sections 5 and 7.3 gives guidance on the labelling of pre-packaged multi-packs in non-retail packaging.

European Union

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Colombia for the preparation of the *Discussion paper on the labelling of prepackaged foods (in joint presentation and multi-packaged formats)* (CX/FL 23/47/9) together with the corresponding project document.

The EUMS note that Colombia defines:

- A multipack format as a “secondary container that includes units of the same or different products, where each unit is individually labelled”,
- A joint presentation as “containing units of different products where they are labelled jointly and the intention of its trade/sale is to present the consumer with a **single label** that lists the foods that compose it, which are complementary to each other or mixed for consumption”.

As already indicated at the previous session of the Committee, the EUMS do not consider it appropriate to create a specific Codex text (standard or guideline) for foods offered in joint presentations and multipack formats. Indeed, the *Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985) (GSLPF) provides labelling requirements that apply to all prepackaged foods to be offered as such to the consumer or for catering purposes, **whether offered in individual packages or in joint presentations or multipack formats**. In other words, the scope of the GSLPF includes already prepackaged foods in joint presentation and multipack formats.

The EUMS would like to highlight in particular the following parts of the GSLPF that relate to the application of the standard to foods offered in joint presentations or multipack formats:

“2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

[...]

“Container” means any packaging of food for delivery as a single item, whether by completely or partially enclosing the food and includes wrappers. A container may enclose several units or types of packages when such is offered to the consumer.

[...]

“Prepackaged” means packaged or made up in advance in a container, ready for offer to the consumer, or for catering purposes.”

“8. PRESENTATION OF MANDATORY INFORMATION

8.1 General

[...]

8.1.2 Statements required to appear on the label by virtue of this standard or any other Codex standards shall be clear, prominent, indelible and readily legible by the consumer under normal conditions of purchase and use.

8.1.3 Where the container is covered by a wrapper, the wrapper shall carry the necessary information or the label on the container shall be readily legible through the outer wrapper or not obscured by it.”

Considering the above and the other topics under discussion in the Committee, the EUMS are of the opinion that this work does not constitute a priority.

South Africa

Recommendation:

The Committee is invited to Initiate new work on amending the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985) to address the labelling of foods presented in multipack formats (the project document is presented in Appendix II) taking into account the gaps highlighted and presented in Appendix I.

- South Africa supports the development of new work on amending the GSLPF to address the labelling of foods presented in “multipack formats” and “joint presentation”.

Rationale: Labelling of multipack formats and joint presentation will assist in providing consumers with clear information about the product, for them to make informed choices and avoid confusion.

United Republic of Tanzania

The URT supports the proposal to initiate new work on amending the GSLPF (CXS 1-1985) to address the labelling of foods presented in multipack formats (the project document is presented in Appendix II) taking into account the gaps highlighted and presented in Appendix I.

JUSTIFICATION

The proposal covers sufficient information hence agreed to proceed.