codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel.: 57051 Telex: 625825 FAO I Email: codex@fao.orge Facsimile: 39(06)5705.4593

ALINORM 99/20

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION Twenty-third Session Rome, 28 June – 3 July 1999

REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS Bern, Switzerland 19 - 21 November 1998

Note: This report incorporates Codex Circular Letter CL 1998/44-NMW.

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CX 5/40.2

CL 1998/44 - NMW

December 1998

TO: - Codex Contact Points

- Participants at the Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters
- Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS (ALINORM 99/20)

The report of the Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters (CCNMW) is attached. It will be considered by the Twenty-third Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be held in Rome from 28 June to 3 July 1999.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

1. Proposed Draft General Standard for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters) at Step 3 (ALINORM 99/20, para. 43 and Appendix II)

Governments and interested international organizations are invited to comment on the above standard and should do so in writing in conformity with the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (see *Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*, Tenth Edition, pages 20-21) to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy, by fax: 39 06 570 54593 or email: Codex@fao.org not later than 1 February 2000.

2. Inclusion of Definition on Mineral Water (ALINORM 99/20, paras 22-24)

Governments and international organizations are invited to provide comments on the need of inclusion and a wording of definition on *Mineral water* as follows:

"Mineral water is water derived from an approved water supply, tapped at one or more bore holes or springs, protected from contamination and containing the total dissolved solids (TDS) of such contents as are recognized satisfactory as mineral water in each country. The level and relative proportions of minerals and trace elements contained in mineral water have the consistency, though there are a certain range of natural fluctuations, which is specific to the source" Comments should be sent in writing to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy, by fax: 39 06 570 54593 or email: <u>Codex@fao.org</u> not later than 1 February 2000.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters reached the following conclusions:

MATTERS OF INTEREST BY THE COMMISSION

The Committe:

- **agreed** to retain the Proposed Draft General Standard for Packaged (Bottled) DrinkingWaters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters) for further comments and consideration (para. 43 and Appendix II);
- refer the Health Related Substances to CCFAC for consideration (para. 32);
- **invite** governments and international organizations to provide comments on the need of inclusion in the Proposed Standard and wording of definition on *Mineral water* (paras 22 24);
- **decided** to forward the definition of *Commercial Sterility* to the Codex Committee on Food hygiene for the developing it in framework of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters) (para. 26).

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ALINORM 99/20

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters held its Sixth Session in Bern, Switzerland, from 19 to 21 November 1998, at the kind invitation of the Government of Switzerland. The Session was opened and chaired by Dr. phil. II Urs Klemm, Chair of the Swiss National Committee of the Codex Alimentarius, Vice-Director of Main Food and Consumer Safety Unit, Swiss Federal Office of Public Heath. The Session was attended by 83 delegates and observers from 30 Member countries and 5 international organizations. The list of participants is attached to this Report as Appendix I.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)

2. The Committee **adopted** the Provisional Agenda as presented in CX/NMW 98/1.

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 2)

3. The Committee received a brief oral report on the present situation of the elaboration of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Water) by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene¹. The Committee noted that the Draft Code would soon be circulated to Member governments and international organizations for comments and information, especially on the incomplete sections.

4. The Committee was also informed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants at its 30th Session agreed to append to its report Section 3.2 (Health-Related Limits for Certain Substances) of the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters, which had been adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 22nd Session (June 1997). Comment on this section was being sought by CL 1998/11-FAC.²

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED DRAFT GENERAL STANDARD FOR BOTTLED/ PACKAGED WATERS OTHER THAN NATURAL MINERAL WATERS AT STEP 4 (Agenda Item 3)³

5. The Committee recalled that during the consideration of the Draft Standard for Natural Mineral Waters at its Fifth Session in October 1996, the Committee had recognized that bottled or otherwise packaged waters were internationally traded in volumes and therefore these products should be covered by an international standard. The Swiss Secretariat, after having several informal working group meetings, had prepared the Proposed Draft General Standard for consideration by the current Session of the Committee.

6. The Delegation of Canada emphasized that the objectives of the Codex Alimentarius Commission be kept in mind; namely, to protect the health of consumers and to ensure fair practices in food trade; and that the elaboration of health and safety aspects of Codex standards should be based on science-based objective criteria. Potential difficulties were recognized in the development of a standard that needed to reflect consumers expectations and perceptions and traditions that are

¹ ALINORM 99/13A (in preparation)

² ALINORM 99/12, paras.58-60 and Appendix XV.

³ CX/NMW 98/2, CX/NMW 98/2-Add.1 (Comments from Australia, Czech Republic, Canada, Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, USA, International Bottled Water Council (IBWA), International Soft Drink Council (ISDC), Groupement International des Sources d'Eaux Minerales Naturelles et des Eaux de Source (UNESEM-GISEMES), CRD 1 (Comments from Republic of South Africa), CRD 2 (Comments from Thailand), CRD 3 (Comments from Switzerland), CRD 4 (Comments from Canada), CRD 5 (Comments from Spain), CRD 6 (Comments from Cuba).

different in various countries or regions. The Delegation proposed that in order to facilitate discussion and to avoid premature argumentation, the Committee should agree on the structure and hierarchy of the Standard and start with general broad aspects of the products covered and then proceed toward the more detailed aspects. The proposed approach was supported by the Committee. Several delegations also stated that the Proposed Draft Standard as currently drafted was overly prescriptive and required more flexibility and simplification.

SCOPE

7. The Committee generally agreed that the Scope of the Standard should be broadened to allow for flexibility. The Delegation of Canada offered a new text for discussion. The Committee agreed to amend the proposed text by making a specific reference to "natural mineral waters" for clarification. The Committee had a brief discussion on the need for a reference to the use of packaged waters as ingredients. It was noted that the Standard under discussion was being elaborated for packaged waters but not for "water as an ingredient" or "potable water". The Committee decided not to include any reference to the use as ingredients as it was felt unnecessary. The Committee agreed to replace the original text of the Scope with the following:

This Standard applies to all waters other than natural mineral waters defined in Codex Standard 108-1981 (Rev 1-1997), that are filled into containers and are suitable for human consumption.

DESCRIPTION

8. The Committee had an extensive discussion on the structure and hierarchy of the Standard, especially on the categories of packaged waters to be included in it. The Committee supported the idea of establishing hierarchy of the products covered by the Standard. It generally agreed that there should be a generic definition that would cover all packaged waters on the market. However, the Committee had a lengthy discussions on whether the number of categories should be three, ground waters, surface waters and processed/treated waters; or two, ground waters and surface waters with subcategories, processed and non-processed waters. An informal working group, formed specifically to consider this issue, proposed to the plenary to develop two categories of waters under the generic definition of Packaged Waters, namely, *Waters defined by origin* which includes *Ground waters and Surface waters*. The Committee accepted this proposal and decided to place "Waters defined by origin" in square bracket for comments on an appropriate term and development of its definition.

9. Several delegations stated that the original Proposed Draft Standard included too many definitions and some definitions were too detailed. While it was requested that simplification and flexibility of the definitions were necessary, it was stated that they should be clear enough for consumers to distinguish between various types of packaged waters.

Packaged Waters

10. The Committee considered a generic definition for packaged waters based on a proposal by the Delegation of Canada. The Committee agreed to insert the term "other than natural mineral waters" after "packaged waters" for clarify that natural mineral waters covered under the Codex Standard were outside of the scope of this Standard (see also para. 7).

11. The Committee also had an exchange of views on the addition of minerals for the purpose of changing the flavour. It was stated that it could be understood that if the addition of flavours was not permitted, minerals added to change the flavour of the water were not allowed either. It was noted that in certain developing countries, minerals were added as nutritional supplements and this possibility should not be excluded. It was pointed out that flavouring substances had been well

defined within the Codex and they did not include minerals and therefore addition of minerals for flavouring would not be excluded.

12. With an editorial amendment, the Committee agreed to include the following wording as the generic definition of "Packaged waters":

Packaged waters, other than natural mineral waters, are waters for human consumption and may contain minerals, naturally occurring or intentionally added; may contain carbon dioxide, naturally occurring or intentionally added; but shall not contain added sugars, sweeteners, flavourings or other foods.

The Committee noted that other than packaged waters terms could be addressed in the labelling section.

Ground Waters

Artesian Water

13. The Committee decided to delete the *Artesian well water* from the heading of the definition in section 2.1.1.1 (a) *Artesian water* in view of difficulties of interpretation especially in Portuguese speaking countries. The designation of this type of products should be considered for different languages and countries under the labelling provision. For example, the following sentence was proposed for future consideration for inclusion in the labelling provision:

Artesian water may also be labelled with other names, such as artesian well water, as allowed by national legislation.

14. The Committee also agreed to delete the second sentence from this definition as the first sentence sufficiently defined the product.

Spring water

15. The Committee had an extensive debate on the definition of spring water. Many delegations were opposed to the current text of the definition as being too restrictive and based on geological emergence and did not correspond to the definition currently used in other parts of the world. It was pointed out that the current definition covered only waters which flow naturally to the surface of the earth only by a natural force but in addition to natural force for emergence, collection of water by boring should also be permitted. The Delegation of the USA stated that the definition should be scientifically justified. In view of controversial opinions on this issue, especially on the geological definition vs. cultural and commercial definition, the Committee decided to include in the Standard the proposal of Canada, as an alternative, and to place both texts in square brackets for comments.

16. The Committee decided to delete the word "only" after the word "collected in the second sentence of the first paragraph of the original definition.

Surface Waters

Glacial Waters

17. The Committee first decided to retain the definition since packaged glacial waters were being traded internationally. Then, the Committee agreed to replace the current definition with the following text, based on the proposal of the United States, to ensure that glacial water was derived from glacier ice and would not contain any non-glacial waters:

Glacial (glacier) water is (1) the runoff directly from the natural melting of ice of a glacier; or (2) water obtained from the melting of glacier ice at a bottled water operation.

The above text was placed in square brackets.

Prepared Waters

18. The Committee considered the wording of the definition of *prepared waters* on the basis of the proposal of the Delegation of Canada. The Committee agreed to clarify the outcome of the alteration by replacing the term "they have lost connection with the defined origin" with "their composition is no longer characteristics of the defined origins". The Delegation of the United States proposed to delete the second sentence as the scope of the Standard already referred to waters suitable for human consumption; the passing through community water supply would not necessarily change the composition of the water; and there were waters fit for human consumption before treatments. The Committee agreed to place the following generic definition for Prepared Waters in square brackets:

Prepared waters are waters that have been substantially altered so that their composition is no longer characteristics of the defined origins. They have been rendered fit for human consumption or have passed through community water supply or have had the composition significantly changed.

19. The Committee had some discussions on the need for the definitions of

Purified/Demineralized water (including *deionized water, distilled water and reverse osmosis water*) and *Sterile/Sterilized water*. Some delegations expressed the concern that the use of terms such as *Purified* water would mislead the consumer. A number of delegations stated that these waters were not intended for human consumption and therefore questioned the usefulness and legitimacy of their inclusion in the Standard. However, it was stated that these products were sold for human consumption in many countries. The Committee agreed to delete these definitions as these products would be covered by the definition of prepared waters; designation of these products could be addressed in the labelling provision; and these product names were self-explanatory.

Water with added minerals, mineralized water or mineralized table water

20. The Committee discussed on the appropriate term(s) to be used as the name of the products. Although it was generally agreed that the name should be selected so as not to cause confusions among consumers, several delegations stated that the term "mineralized water" or "mineralized table water" more properly reflected the characteristics of the products while a number of others preferred "water with added minerals" as less confusing. Many delegations stated that the matter was rather on the designation than definition of the product and therefore could possibly dealt with in the labelling provision. The Committee agreed to maintain the definition in this section as it includes a reference to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives and to clarify it as follows:

Water with added minerals, mineralized water or mineralized table water is prepared water with minerals added according to the provisions in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (CODEX STAN 192-1995, Rev. 1-1997).

The Committee also decided to amend the heading of the definition by adding *Mineralized water or mineralized table water* and place it in square brackets.

21. The Committee noted that the concern of the Delegation of United Arab Emirates as regards desalination and subsequent salts addition to the seawater was already addressed in Section 2.1.2 "Prepared waters".

Mineral Water

22. The Committee had an extensive debate on a possibility of including of a new definition of *Mineral Water* in the Proposed Draft Standard. Several delegations stressed the need and strongly

asserted the inclusion of this definition stating that there were waters with similar characteristics as those of natural mineral waters but they did not fall under "natural mineral waters" as defined in the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters due to the practice of disinfection and/or transportation, and therefore excluded from marketing as "natural mineral water". The Delegation of Japan stated that mineral content was the most important criterion for quality of water and therefore the Proposed Draft Standard should include the definition for Mineral Waters. The Delegation of Japan supported by several delegations proposed the wording for the definition of Mineral Water as follows:

Mineral water is water derived from an approved water supply, tapped at one or more bore holes or springs, protected from contamination and containing the total dissolved solids (TDS) of such contents as are recognized satisfactory as mineral water in each country. The level and relative proportions of minerals and trace elements contained in mineral water have the consistency, though there are a certain range of natural fluctuations, which is specific to the source.

23. The Delegation of France supported by many other delegations and the Observer from EC argued that the inclusion of this term would lead to the confusion of consumers as the term "Mineral Water" was very similar to the term Natural Mineral Water and strongly opposed to the inclusion of this new definition in the Proposed Draft Standard. It was stated that either this type of water was named as Spring Water or the proposed definition could be added to that of Spring Water.

24. Due to divergent opinions, the Committee did not reach consensus on the inclusion of a definition in the Proposed Draft Standard. As a compromise, the Committee agreed to include the term *Mineral water* in square brackets in the Proposed Draft Standard without the text on definition. It was further agreed that by way of a Codex Circular Letter, comments would be invited from governments and international organizations on a need for such a definition and on the text of the above definition.

Supplementary definitions

25. Committee decided to delete the definitions of *Approved water supply, Water distribution system* and *Establishment* as they were either unnecessary or already addressed in the Draft Code of Hygienic practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters).

26. On the request to include the definition on *Commercial sterility*, the Committee agreed that it would more properly developed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene within the framework of the Code of Hygienic Practice and therefore decided to forward the following text to that Committee for consideration for inclusion in the Code.

"Commercial Sterility means the condition achieved by the application of appropriate treatment to render the bottled water free from microorganisms capable of growing in the product at normal non-refrigerated conditions at which the product is likely to be held during distribution and storage and free of viable microorganisms (including spores) of public health significance. The absence of viable microorganisms shall be determined with appropriate microbiological tests.

ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

Treatment and Handling

COLLECTION OF GROUND WATERS

27. The Committee agreed to replace the term "underground" with "ground" to be consistent with the heading of section 2.1.1.1, Ground water. The Committee also agreed to (1) keep the term "well water" as it is one of the defined terms in Section 2; and (2) insert the term "such" after

"ground water" to indicate that the products followed were examples and it was not meant to contain an exhaustive list of products.

Transportation

28. The Committee recognized that the provision, except for the first sentence, referred to hygiene. As hygienic aspects of the products covered under the standard would be dealt with in the Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Water), the Committee agreed to delete the second sentence and to retain the first and third sentence, that refers to the above Code.

Forms of Treatment

29. The Committee noted that these treatments specified in this provision were optional but not mandatory. On the need for detailed description of the types of treatments and waters that could be treated, the Committee generally agreed that it was premature to get in detail pending decisions on Section 2.1 Definitions. In response to the concerns that a treatment which alters significantly the characteristics of water defined by origin should not be applied to this kind of water, the Committee agreed to add the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph for clarification:

"Any anti-microbial treatments applied to waters defined by origin (Section 2.1.1) shall not significantly alter the composition of the water in so far as this relates to the characteristics of its origin."

30. The Committee replaced the term "underground" with "ground" as in the provision for collection of ground waters.

Health related limits for certain substances

31. The Committee agreed to change the current maximum value for lead from 0.005mg/l to 0.01mg/l, that is in line with the current WHO Guideline value and the maximum level for natural mineral water.

32. The Committee agreed that the Health-Related limits be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for consideration. It was noted that several delegations favored alignment of the levels to those being considered for Natural Mineral Waters.

33. The WHO Representative noted that the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled (Packaged) Drinking Waters (other than Natural Mineral Waters) proposed that the chemical and physical safety criteria to be used for packaged water be those issued by WHO in its Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality⁴ and pointed out that the proposed levels for arsenic, borate manganese and selenium presented in the Proposed Draft Standard substantially exceeded WHO guideline values and may present a public health concern. On the other hand the proposed value for nitrate was lower than WHO guideline value. Consistent with WHO's precautionary policy regarding human exposure to food additives and contaminants, WHO would support the establishment of lower levels which would be feasible by the industry.

34. The WHO Representative emphasized that the primary aim of the WHO guidelines was the protection of public health and to serve as a basis for the development of national regulations that, if properly implemented, would ensure the safety of drinking water supplies through elimination or reduction to a minimum concentration, of constituents of water that was shown to be hazardous to health. The WHO Representative emphasized that the guideline values recommended were not

⁴ Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality-Recommendations, Volume 1 (1993), and Addendum to vol. 1 (1998), World Health Organization, Geneva.

mandatory limits. In order to define such limits it was necessary to consider the guideline values in the context of national conditions.

35. The Committee recognized that the WHO guidelines were intended to apply primarily to public drinking water supply.

HYGIENE

36. The Committee agreed to align the wording of Subsections 4.1-4.2 to the new standard text⁵ recommended by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption.

37. In relation to the request to include microbiological requirements, the Committee was informed that microbiological criteria had been elaborated by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to be included in Appendix II of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Water) and that after the completion of the Code, that Committee would review the current Code of Hygienic Practice for the Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters. It was also noted that microbiological criteria normally were included in Codes of Hygienic Practice rather than in standards. The Committee decided that microbiological criteria be developed by the Committee on Food Hygiene and in the future the standard and the code for natural mineral waters should be consistent with other standards on this subject.

Approval of the waters defined by origin

38. The Committee discussed whether this section was necessary because of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters) being developed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. Several delegations pointed out that because some waters were defined by origin therefore an approval of water origin was needed. The Delegation of France stated that the approval of the water's origin should include all the elements to guarantee the identity and safety of the waters defined according to their origin. The Committee agreed to amend the heading of the section to read *Approval of the waters defined by origin* and that the safety matters would be dealt with by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. However, the Committee decided to put section 4.3 within square brackets as it was felt premature to make a decision pending a conclusion on a definition of "Waters defined by origin".

39. The Representative of WHO noted that the WHO microbiological guideline levels apply to bottled water intended for human consumption but not to natural mineral waters and were being revised to include process specifications, such as treatment and protection of source. He also noted that, at the request of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, WHO and FAO were in the process of convening an expert consultation on the microbiological risk assessment.

PACKAGING

40. The Committee decided to delete the second paragraph of the Section as it felt that the first paragraph sufficiently covered the necessary requirements and as the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters did not contain this paragraph.

LABELLING

41. The Committee agreed to place Sections 6.1-6.3 in square brackets in view of the new structure of Section 2 Description and many product definitions placed in square brackets. The Committee confirmed that it would consider at its next Session a number of issues, such as the

⁵ ALINORM 99/13, Appendix VI.

designation of "artesian well water", "deionized water", "demineralized water", etc., which the Committee decided to discuss under the section of labelling (see paras 13 and 19).

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

42. The Committee noted that at the last session it could not review the methods of analysis and sampling provision of the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters and that one ISO Standard⁶ endorsed for determination of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* had been revoked by ISO. It might be necessary to consider for updating the provision in that standard at the same time as the development of the provision of methods of analysis and sampling in the Standard for Packaged (Bottled) Waters Other Than Natural Mineral Waters.

Status of the Proposed Draft General Standard for Packaged (Bottled) Waters Other Than Natural Mineral Waters

43. As many important issues in the text required further consideration, the Committee **agreed** to return the Proposed Draft Standard to Step 3 of the Procedure for comments. The amended text is attached to this Report as Appendix II.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK (Agenda Item 4)

44. There was no other business proposed for discussion. The Committee would continue the work on the Proposed Draft General Standard for Packaged (Bottled) Waters Other Than Natural Mineral Waters.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 5)

45. The Committee was informed that the next Session of the Committee was tentatively scheduled to be held in the period of 2000-2001. The exact date and place would be determined between the Host government and Codex Secretariats.

⁶ ISO 8360-2:1988.

ANNEX I

SUMMARY STATUS OF WORK

Subject	Step	Action by	Reference in ALINORM 99/20
Proposed Draft General Standard for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters Other Than Natural Mineral Waters	3	Governments, 7 th CCNMW	para. 43 and Appendix II
Health Related Limits		CCFAC	para. 32
Commercial Sterility		CCFH	para.26

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANT

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

Chairperson: Urs Klemm, Dr.phil. II Président: President Swiss National Committee Presidente: of the Codex Alimentarius Swiss Federal Office of Public Health 3003 Berne Tel.: +41 31 322 95 72 Fax: +41 31 322 95 74 E-mail: urs.klemm@bag.admin.ch

Assistant to the Chairperson: Manfred Elsig Assistant au Presidént: Swiss Federal Office for Foreign Economic Affairs Assistente al Presidente: 3003 Berne Tel.: +41 31 324 08 47 Fax: +41 31 324 09 59

E-mail: manfred.elsig@bawi.admin.ch

AUSTRALIA/AUSTRALIE

Simon Brooke-Taylor Program Manager Food Product Standards Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) PO Box 7186 Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610 Tel.: +612 6271 2225 Fax: +612 6271 2278 E-mail: simon.brooke-taylor@anzfa.gov.au

AUSTRIA/AUTRICHE

Dieter Jenewein Director Bundesanstalt für Lebensmitteluntersuchung In Innsbruck Technikerstrasse 70 A-6020 Innsbruck Tel.: +43 1 7 11 00 Fax: +43 1 1100 2934

BELGIUM/BELGIQUE/BELGICA

Charles Crémer Chef de service Ministère de la Santé Publique Inspection des denrées alimentaires Cité Administrative de l'Etat Quartier Esplanade, 11ème étage 1010 Bruxelles Tel.: +32 2 210 48 43 Fax: +32 2 210 48 16 E-mail: <u>charles.cremer@health.fgov.be</u>

Karine Lambert Secrétaire Générale FIEB 51/5, ave du Général de Gaulle 1050 Bruxelles Tel.: +32 2 649 12 86 Fax: +32 2 646 13 39 E-mail: <u>k.lambert@fieb.be</u>

José Bontemps Conseiller scientifique SPADEL Rue Colonel Bourg, 103 1030 Bruxelles Tel.: +32 2 702 38 11 Fax: +32 2 702 38 12

BRAZIL/BRESIL/BRASIL

Paulo Bozzi Counsellor Ministry of Foreign Relations Brazilian Embassy in Bern Monbijoustrasse 68 3007 Bern Tel.: +41 31 371 85 15 Fax: +41 31 371 85 27 E-mail: brazil@spectraweb.ch

CANADA

Peter Pauker (Head of Delegation) Trade Policy Officer Technical Barriers and Regulations Division (EAS) Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada 125 Sussex Drive Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2 Tel.: 613 992 0523 Fax: 613 944 0756 E-mail: peter.pauker@extott23.x400.gc.ca

Claudette Dalpé Manager, Food Regulatory Program Bureau of Food Regulatory, International and Interagency Affairs Food Directorate, Health Protection Branch, Health Canada Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2 Tel.: 613 957 1750 Fax: 613 941 3537 E-mail: claudette_dalpe@hc.sc.gc.ca

Elizabeth C. Griswold-Woodworth Executive Director Canadian Bottled Water Association 70 East Beaver Creek Road, Suite 203-1 Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 3B7 Tel.: +1 905 886 69 28 Fax: +1 905 886 95 31 E-mail: ecgriswood@aol.com Luisa Crapigna Food Policy and Legislation Officer Canadian Food Inspection Agency 59 Camelot Drive Nedean, Ontario KIA OY9 Tel.: 613 225 23 42 Fax: 613 228 66 11 E-mail: <u>lcrapigna@em.agr.ca</u>

Michel Lavallée Coordonnateur des autorisations des captages d'eau de source et d'eau minérale Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec 5199 Est Rue Sherbrooke, Suite 4701 Montréal, Québec H1T 3X3 Tel.: 514 873 8878 Fax: 514 873 8372 E-mail: <u>michel.lavallee@mef.gouv.qc.ca</u>

COLOMBIA/COLOMBIE

Elizabeth Herrera Neira Ingeniera de Alimentos Ministerio de Salud – Instituto Nacional de Vigilancia de Medicamentos y Alimentos – INVIMA Cra 15 # 58 – 59 Santa Fe de Bogota Tel.: +211 59 51 E-mail: ossmajo@bogota.minsalud.gov.co

CROATIA/CROATIE

Zeljko Dadic Croatian Institute of Public Health Water Research Division Rockefellerova 7 10000 Zagreb Tel.: +385 1 468 30 09 Fax: +365 1 468 30 09

CZECH REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE/REPUBLICA CHECA

Borivoj Havlík Advisor Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic Palackého nàmesti 4 Praha 2, 128 01 Tel.: +420 2 2497 2427 Fax: +420 2 2491 5996 (6007) E-mail: havlik@mzcr.cz

DENMARK/DANEMARK/DINAMARCA

Dorthe Licht Cand. Scient. Ph.ch. Danish Veterinary and Food Administration Rolighedsvej 25 1958 Frederiksberg C Tel.: 45 33 95 60 00 Faxy: +45 33 95 60 01 E-mail: <u>dli@vfd.dk</u>

FINLAND/FINLANDE/FINLANDIA

Risto Aurola Government Counsellor Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Siltasaarenk. 18A 00530 Helsinki Tel.: +398 9 1604128 Fax: +358 9 1604120

FRANCE/FRANCIA

Bernard André (Head of Delegation) Direction Générale de la Concurence, de la Consommation et de la Répression des Fraudes 59, Boulevard Vincent Auriol 75003 Paris Cedex 13 Fax: +33 1 44 97 32 01 Fax: +33 1 44 97 30 43

Roseline Lecourt Direction Générale de la Concurence, de la Consommation et de la Répression des Fraudes 59, Boulevard Vincent Auriol 75003 Paris Cedex 13 Fax: +33 1 44 97 34 70 Fax: +33 1 44 97 30 37 E-mail: roseline.lecourt@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

Jean-François Roche Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Direction Générale de l'Alimentation 251, rue de Vaugirard 75732 Paris cedex 15 Tel.: +33 1 49 55 58 81 Fax: +33 1 49 55 59 48 E-mail: <u>reg2@wanadoo.fr</u> Vincent Ducasse Directeur Réglementation et Développement Scientifique Pole Expertise Eau Danone 7, rue de Téhéran Paris Tel.: +33 1 44 35 26 24 Fax: +33 1 44 35 24 27 E. Mail: vducasse@groupe.danone.com

Denise Pepin Faculté de Pharmacie 28, place H. Dunant B.P. 38 63001 Clermont Cedex Tel.: +33 4 73 28 84 50 Fax: +33 4 73 28 84 55

Olivier Pierre Direction Générale de la Concurence, de la Consommation et de la Répression des Fraudes 59, Boulevard Vincent Auriol 75003 Paris Cedex 13 Fax: +33 1 44 97 32 06 Fax: +33 1 44 97 30 43 E-mail:olivier.pierre@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

GERMANY/ALLEMAGNE/ALEMANIA

Hermann Brei Regierungsdirektor Bundesministerium für Gesundheit D-53108 Bonn Tel.: +49 228 941 4141 Fax: +49 228 941 4947

Astrid Dross Wissenschaftliche Oberrätin Bundesinstitut für gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutz und Veterinärmedizin Thielallee 88-92 14195 Berlin Tel.: +49 30 8412 3461 Fax: +49 30 8412 3685 E-mail: a.dross@bgvv.de Stefanie Bausch Food Chemist Nestlé Germany Lyonner Str. 23 60523 Frankfurt/Main Tel.: +49 69 66 71 2689 Fax: +49 69 66 71 3440

Arno Dopychai Referent/Advisor Verband Deutscher Mineralbrunnen Kennedyallee 28 53229 Bonn Tel.: +49 228 95 99 00 Fax: +49 228 95 99 023 E-mail: vdm.bonn@t-online.de

Rolph Langlais Director scientific Regulatory Affairs Coca-Cola GmbH Frankenstr. 348 45133 Essen Tel.: +49 201 821 1361 Fax: +49 201 821 1773 E-mail: dlanglais@eur.ko.com

HUNGARY/HONGRIE//HUNGRIA

Béla Borszéki President FAO/WHO Hungarian National Committee Mineral Water Working Committee Wesselényi Str. 16 1075 Budapest Tel.: +361 358 9848 Fax: +361 358 9848

Sandor Szabo Pepsi Cola Company and Mineral Water Working Committee Wesselényi Str. 16 1075 Budapest Tel.: +361 267 88 07 Fax: +361 267 88 08

ITALY/ITALIE/ITALIA

Brunella Lo Turco Segreario generale Comitato nazionale Codex Ministero per le politiche agricole Via XX Settembre 20 Roma Tel.: +39 06 488 02 73 Fax: +39 06 488 02 73 E-mail: bloturco@ats.it

Pierangelo Grippo Comitato Italiano Codex Via delle Tre Madonne 12 00197 Rome Tel.: 00 39 06 807 99 50 Fax: 00 39 06 807 99 46

Laura Toti Researcher Istituto Superiore della Sanità Viale Regina Elena 299 00189 Roma Tel.: 00 39 06 499 02 779

Stefano Terzi San Pellegrino Loc. Ruspino 24016 San Pellegrino Terme BG Tel.: +39 03 45 29 256 Fax: +39 03 45 29 230 E-mail: terzi@spm.it

JAPAN/JAPON

Akihiko Nishiyama Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Director for International Standardization Standards and Labelling Division Food and Marketing Bureau 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-8950 Tel.: +81 3 3507 8592 Fax: +81 3 3502 0438 E-mail: akihiko_nishiyama@nm.maff.go.jp

Hayato Nakajima Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku Tokyo 100-8950 Tel.: +81 3 3501 3815 Fax: +81 3 3502 0614 E-mail: hayato_nakajima@nm.maff.go.jp Kenichi Nakano Technical Advisor National Association of Food Industries, Japan 3-6-18 Kamimeguro, Meguro-ku Tokyo 153-0051 Tel.: +81 3 3716 2639 Fax: +81 3 3716 2700

Masahiko Fukuda Technical Advisor National Association of Food Industries, Japan 3-6-18 Kamimeguro, Meguro-ku Tokyo 153-0051 Tel.: +81 3 3716 2639 Fax: +81 3 3716 6226

Yasuhiro Morimura Technical Advisor National Association of Food Industries, Japan 3-6-18 Kamimeguro, Meguro-ku Tokyo 153-0051 Tel.: +81 3 3716 2639 Fax: +81 3 3716 2700

KENYA

Joseph Kimaru Keeru Head of Delegation Principal Standards Officer Kenya Bureau of Standards P.O. Box 54974 Nairobi Tel.: +254 2 50 22 10-19 Fax: +254 2 503293 E-mail: Kebs@users.africaonline.co.ke

Benjamin Malwa Langwen Chief Chemist City Council of Nairobi P.O. Box 30656 Nairobi Tel.: +254 2 58 13 71

NETHERLANDS/PAYS-BAS/PAISES BAJOS

Joris Francken (Head of Delegation) Senior Policy Officer Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport PO Box 20350 2500 EJ Den Haag Tel.: +31 70 340 68 48 Fax: +31 70 340 55 54 E-mail: jm.francken@minvws.nl

Jouke Schat NFI O Box 26155 3002 ED Rotterdam Tel.: +31 10 477 40 33 Fax: +31 10 425 90 25 E-mail: j.j.schat@bbm.nl

NORWAY/NORVEGE/NORUEGA

John Race (Head of Delegation) Special Adviser, International Liaison Norwegian Food Control Authority P.O. Box 8187 Dep. 0034 Oslo Tel.: +47 2 224 62 68 Fax: +47 2 224 66 99 E-mail: john.race@snt.dep.telemax.no

Paul Skjaker Senior executive Officer Norwegian Food Control Authority P.O. Box 8187 Dep. 0034 Oslo Tel.: +47 2 224 61 60 Fax: +47 2 224 66 99 E-mail: paul.skjaker@snt.dep.telemax.no

PORTUGAL

Carlos Manuel Pimpão Assessor, engenheiro agrónomo Ministerio da Agricultura, Desenvolvimento rural e das Pescas Direcção-Geral de Fiscalização e Controlo da Qualidade Alimentar Av. Conde Valbom, 96/98 1050 Lisboa Tel.: +351 1 798 37 48 Fax: +351 1 798 38 34 Francisco Mendonça Secrétaire général APIAM Av. Miguel Bombarda 110 2 DT Lisboa Tel.: +351 1 794 05 74 Fax: +351 1 793 82 33

ROMANIA/ROUMANIE/RUMANÌA

Veronica Geamânu Socitatea Nationalâ a Apelor Minerale di România St. Mendeleev 36-38 Bucarest Tel.: +40 1 540 77 11 Fax: +40 1 650 34 87

SENEGAL

Gaston P. Toupane (Head of Delegation) Ingénieur en Génie de l'Environnement Chef de la Division Laboratoire du Service National de l'Hygiène Direction de l'Hygiène et de la Santé Publique Immeuble Vendôme BP 4024 Point E Dakar Tel.: +221 825 6139 Fax: +221 824 7549

Faye Mame Diara Leye Chef section Denrées alimentaires Ministère de la santé publique Immeuble Vendôme BP 4024 Point E Dakar Tel.: +221 825 6139 Fax: +221 824 7549

SPAIN/ESPAGNE/ESPAÑA

Maria Dolores Hernando Arranz Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo Paseo del Prado 18-20 28011 Madrid Tel.: +34 91 596 19 81 Fax: +34 91 596 44 09 Irene Zafra Secretaria General Asociacion Nacional de Empresas de Aguas de Bebida Envasada ANEABE Serrano $76 - 5^{0}$ 28006 Madrid Tel.: +34 91 575 82 26 Fax: +34 91 578 18 16

SWEDEN/SUEDE/SUECIA

Kerstin Jansson (Head of Delegation) Head of Section Ministry of Agriculture National Food Administration 10333 Stockholm Tel.: +46 8 405 11 68 Fax: +46 8 206 496 E-mail: kerstin.jansson@agriculture.ministry.se

Bitte Erlandsson Head of Division National Food Administration Box 622 75126 Uppsala Tel.: +46 18 17 55 00 Fax: +46 18 10 58 48 E-mail: <u>bier@slv.se</u>

SWITZERLAND/SUISSE/SUIZA

Eva Zbinden (Head of Delegation) Attorney at law Swiss Federal Office of Public Health Service of International Standards 3003 Berne Tel.: +41 31 322 95 72 Fax: +41 31 322 95 74 E-mail: <u>eva.zbinden@bag.admin.ch</u>

Irina Du Bois Nestec SA 1800 Vevey Tel.: +41 21 924 22 61 Fax: +41 21 924 45 47 E-mail: <u>irina.dubois@nestle.com</u>

Danielle Magnolato Regulatory Affairs Manager Nestec SA 1800 Vevey Tel.: +41 21 924 44 41 Fax: +41 21 924 45 47 E-mail: daniele.magnolato@nestle.com Alexander Kuhn Generalsekretär Verband Schweiz. Mineralquellen und Bahnhofplatz 9 Postfach 6325 8023 Zürich Tel.: +41 1 221 21 84 Fax: +41 1 211 62 06

THAILAND/THAILANDE/TAILANDIA

Chanin Charoenpong (Head of Delegation) Senior Expert in Food Standard Food and Drug Administration Ministry of Public Health Nonthaburi 11000 Tel.: +622 590 70 30 Fax: +622 591 84 60 E-mail: chanin@fda.moph.go.th

Prathan Prasertvithiakarn Senior Pharmacist Consumer Protection Group Food and Drug Administration Ministry of Public Health Thivanon Rd. Nonthaburi 11000 Tel.: +622 591 84 86 Fax: +622 591 84 84

Supannee Pitikantithum Standards Officer Thai Industrial Standard Institute Ministry of Industry Rama VI Street Bangkok 10400 Tel.: +662 202 34 37 Fax: +662 248 79 87

Orawon Bundith Chief of Water and Quality Management Department Boon Rawd Brewery Co. Ltd. 999 Samaen Road, Bangkrabue Bangkok 10300 Tel.: +662 241 13 61-9, ext. 167, 248 Fax: +662 243 17 40

TUNISIA/TUNISIE/TUNEZ

Fayçal Kolsi Ingénieur principal Office du Thermalisme Ministère du Tourisme et de l'Artisanat 8, rue du Sénégal 1002 Tunis le Belvédère Tel.: +2161 844 566 Fax: +2161 791 868

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES EMIRATS ARABES UNIS EMIRATOS ARABES UNIDOS

Mutwakil Mohamed Ahmed Head Chemistry Department Food and Environment Control Centre Abu Dhabi Minucipality UAE P.O. Box 3111 Abu Dhabi Tel.: +9712 725007 Fax: +9712 785961

UNITED KINGDOM/ROYAUME-UNI REINO UNIDO

Dorian Kennedy (Head of Delegation) Food Labelling and Standards Division Branch C Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Room 316 Ergon House, c/o Nobel House 17 Smith Square London SW1P 3JR Tel.: +44 171 238 5574 Fax: +44 171 238 5782/6763 E-mail: d.kennedy@fssg.maff.gov.uk

Gerald Goldwin Food Labelling and Standards Division Branch C Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Room 323 Ergon House, c/o Nobel House 17 Smith Square London SW1P 3JR Tel.: +44 171 238 5989 Fax: +44 171 238 5782

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

Terry C. Troxell Director, Divison of Programs and Enforcement Policy Food and Drug Administration 200 C. Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20204 Tel.: +1 202 205 5321 Fax: +1 202 205 4422 E-mail: ttroxell@bangate.fda.gov

Shellee A. Davis Consumer Safety Officer Office of Plant and Dairy Foods and Beverages Food and Drug Administration 200 C. Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20204 Tel.: +1 202 205 5023 Fax: +1 202 205 4422 E-mail: sdavis@bangate.fda.gov

George J. Jackson Director/Microbiologist Food and Drug Administration 200 C. Street, S.W.(HFS-500) Washington, D.C. 20204 Tel.: +1 202 205 4051 Fax: +1 202 401 7740 E-mail: gjackson@bangate.fda.gov

Charles W. Cooper Director, International Activities Staff Food and Drug Administration 200 C. Street, S.W.(HFS-585) Washington, D.C. 20204 Tel.: +1 202 205 5042 Fax: +1 202 205 0165 E-mail: ccooper@bangate.fda.gov

Julia C. Howell Director, Regulatory Submissions The Coca-Cola Company One Coca-Cola Plaza P.O. Box Drawer 1734 Atlanta, Georgia 30301 Tel.: +1 404 676 4224 Fax: +1 404 676 7166 E-mail: jhowell@na.ko.com Syed Amjad Ali U.S. Codex Office USDA/FSIS 12th Independence Avenue, SW Room 4857 South Building Washington, DC 20250-3700 Tel.: 202 205 0574 Fax: 202 720 3157 E-mail: syed.ali@usda.gov

Bill Miller Technical Director National Spring Water Association P.O. Drawer 668 Robbinsville, NC 28771 Tel.: +1 828 479 2659 Fax: +1 828 479 2659 E-mail: bebo@gte.net

Janice Adair Director Environmental Health Alaska 555 Cordona Str. Anchorage, AK 99501 Alaska Tel.: +1 907 269 7644 Fax: +1 907 269 7654 E-mail: jadair@environ.state.ak.us

Jack C. West Director, Business Development U.S. Filter, Consumer Products Group 88 Old Wagon Road Bedford Corners, New York 10549 Tel.: +1 914-241-8441 Fax: +1 914-666-6978 E-mail: jackwest@compuserve.com

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION/ GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Paul Reiderman Administrator Council of Ministers of the European Union Rue de la Loi 175 B- 1048 Brussels Belgium Tel.: +32 2 285 8563 Fax: +32 2 285 7928

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Marie-Ange Balbinot (Head of Delegation) Administrator EC Codex Coordinator European Commission Directorate General III - Industry Rue d'Arlon 88, 3/55 B-1049 Brussels Belgium Tel.: +32 2 295 07 63 Fax: +32 2 296 09 51 E-mail: Marie-ange.balbinot.dg3.cec.be

(ISDC) INTERNATIONAL SOFT DRINK COUNCIL

Alain Beaumont Secretary General UNESDA-CISDA Boulevard St. Michel 77-79 B- 1040 Brussels Belgium Tel.: +32 2 743 40 50 Fax: +32 2 732 51 02 E-mail: mail@unesda-cisda.org

Michel Pépin Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Manager Coca-Cola France 11, rue Leblanc B.P. 25 F-75513 Paris France Tel.: +33 1 40 60 27 25 Fax: +33 1 40 60 29 99 E-mail: mpepin@eur.ko.com

UNION EUROPEENNE ETGROUPEMENT INTERNATIONAL DES INDUSTRIES DES EAUX MINERALES NATURELLES ET DES EAUX DE SOURCE(UNESEM-GISEMES)

Françoise de Buttet Secrétaire générale GISEMES 10, rue de La Trémoille F- 75008 Paris France Tel.: 00 33 1 47 203110 Fax: 00 33 1 47 202762 E-mail: françoise.debuttet@wanadoo.fr

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ (OMS) ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD (OMS)

Gerald Moy Food Safety Scientist World Health Organization CH- 1211 Geneva Switzerland Tel.: +41 22 791 36 98 Fax: +41 22 791 48 07 E-mail: moyg@who.ch

James Bartram Scientist Water, Sanitation and Health Unit World Health Organization CH-1211 Geneva Tel.: +41 22 791 35 37 Fax: +41 22 791 41 59 E-mail: <u>bartramj@who.ch</u>

JOINT FAO/WHO SECRETARIAT

Jeronimas Maskeliunas Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme FAO Viale delle Terme di Carcalla 00100 Rome, Italy Tel.: +39 06 570 53 967 Fax: +39 06 570 54 593 E-mail: jeronimas.maskeliunas@fao.org

Yukiko Yamada Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme FAO Viale delle Terme di Carcalla 00100 Rome, Italy Tel.: +39 06 570 55 443 Fax: +39 06 570 54 593 E-mail: yukiko.yamada@fao.org

APPENDIX II

PROPOSED DRAFT GENERAL STANDARD FOR PACKAGED (BOTTLED) WATERS OTHER THAN NATURAL MINERAL WATERS (Returned to step 3 of the Codex procedure)

1. SCOPE

This standard applies to all waters other than natural mineral waters as defined in CODEX STAN 108-1981 (Rev. 1-1997), that are filled into containers and are suitable for human consumption.

2. **DESCRIPTION**

2.1 PACKAGED WATERS

Packaged waters, other than natural mineral waters, are waters for human consumption and may contain minerals, naturally occurring or intentionally added; may contain carbon dioxide, naturally occurring or intentionally added; but shall not contain added sugars, sweeteners, flavourings or other foods.

2.1.1 [Waters Defined by Origin]

[text to be developed if necessary]

2.1.1.1 Ground Waters

[text to be developed]

2.1.1.1.1 *Artesian water* is water from a well tapping a confined aquifer in which the water level stands at some height above the top of the aquifer.

2.1.1.1.2 [*Spring water* is water derived from an underground formation from which water flows naturally to the surface of the earth. Spring water shall be collected at the spring or through a bore hole tapping the underground formation feeding the spring. There shall be a natural force causing the water to flow to the surface through a natural orifice. The location of the spring shall be identifiable.

Spring water collected with the use of an external force shall be from the same underground stratum as the spring, as shown by a measurable hydraulic connection using a hydrogeologically valid method between the bore hole and the natural spring, and shall have all the physical properties, before treatment, and be of the same composition and quality, as the water that flows naturally to the surface of the earth. If spring water is collected with the use of an external force, water must continue to flow naturally to the surface of the earth through the spring's natural orifice. Bottled water plants shall demonstrate, on request, to appropriate regulatory officials, using a hydrogeologically valid method, that an appropriate hydraulic connection exists between the natural orifice of the spring and the bore hole.]

OR

[*Spring water* is water fit for human consumption derived from an underground formation and not from a public or private community water supply, from which water may flow naturally to the surface of the earth. Spring water may be collected at the spring or through a bore hole tapping the underground formation. There may be a natural force causing the water to flow to the surface through a natural orifice. The geographic location of the underground formation shall be identifiable. Spring water should have a total dissolved solids range of <500 ppm.

In those cases, where a natural orifice exists, but the spring water is collected through a bore hole, it shall be from the same underground stratum as the spring, as shown by having the same physical properties, before treatment, and be of having the same composition and quality as the water that flows naturally to the surface of the earth. If spring water is collected with the use of a bore hole and a natural orifice exists, water may continue to flow naturally to the surface of the earth through the spring's natural orifice.]

Well water is water from a hole bored, drilled, or otherwise constructed in the ground which taps the water of an aquifer.

[2.1.1.1.4 *Mineral water*]

[text to be developed if it is determined as necessary]

Surface Waters

[text to be developed]

[2.1.1.2.1 *Glacial (Glacier) Water* is (1) the runoff directly from the natural melting of ice of a glacier; or (2) water obtained from the melting of glacier ice at a bottled water operation.]

2.1.1 Prepared Waters

[Prepared waters are waters that have been substantially altered so that their composition is no longer characteristics of the defined origins. They have been rendered fit for human consumption or have passed through community water supply or have had the composition significantly changed.]

2.1.2.1 [*Water with added minerals or mineralized table water*] is prepared water with minerals added according to the provisions in the Codex General Standard For Food Additives (CODEX STAN 192-1995, Rev.1-1997).

3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

3.1 TREATMENT AND HANDLING

3.1.1. *Collection of ground waters:* The conditions in which ground waters such as artesian, spring and well water are collected must not modify the physical properties, composition or quality of the water prior to the treatments.

3.1.2 *Transportation:* Transportation of water from extraction or collection points to bottling facilities, if necessary, shall be conducted in a way that does not have any significant effect on the safety and the characteristic composition of the transported water. Relevant provisions of the [Draft] Code of Hygienic Practice for the Transport of Foodstuffs in Bulk and Semi-Packed Foodstuffs and [Draft] Code of Hygienic Practice for Packaged (Bottled) Drinking Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters)⁷ apply.

3.1.3 *Forms of treatment:* Safe and suitable chemical, physical, thermal, and anti-microbial treatments are permitted. These treatments can be used singly or in combination as multiple barriers. Any anti-microbial treatments applied to waters defined by origin (Section 2.1.1) shall not significantly alter the composition of the water in so far as this relates to the characteristics of its origin.

For ground water, protected from external influences as defined in the [Draft] Code of Hygienic Practice for Packaged (Bottled) Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Waters), the need for treatment, the type and degree, are defined in accordance with Section 5 (5.1) of the [Draft] Code.

⁷ Being developed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

3.2 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER DERIVED FROM GROUND FORMATION

Waters derived from ground formation (artesian, spring or well water) must not be under the direct influence of the surface water.

Some waters derived from ground formations (artesian, spring or well water), as extracted from their geological source, may contain high levels of some undesirable minerals as iron, sulphur compound and the substances listed in Section 3.3.

The water supply may be treated to selectively remove these undesirable elements.

3.3 HEALTH-RELATED LIMITS FOR CERTAIN SUBSTANCES

No bottled water shall contain any constituent in quantities that may be injurious to health. Bottled water shall not contain more than the following amounts of the substances indicated hereunder:

	Substance	Maximum Limit
3.3.1	Antimony	0.005 mg/l
3.3.2	Arsenic	0.05 mg/l, calculated as total As
3.3.3	Barium	1 mg/l
3.3.4	Borate	5 mg/l, calculated as B
3.3.5	Cadmium	0.003 mg/l
3.3.6	Chromium	0.05 mg/l, calculated as total Cr
3.3.7	Copper	1 mg/l
3.3.8	Cyanide	0.07 mg/l
3.3.9	Fluoride	See Section 6.2.2
3.3.10	Lead	0.01 mg/l
3.3.11	Manganese	2 mg/l
3.3.12	Mercury	0.001 mg/l
3.3.13	Nickel	0.02 mg/l
3.3.14	Nitrate	50 mg/l, calculated as nitrate
3.3.15	Nitrite	0.02 mg/l as nitrite
3.3.16	Selenium	0.05 mg/l

3.3.17 For any other chemical substances, the World Health Organization's most recent *Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality* may be used as a guide.

4. HYGIENE

4.1 It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this standard shall be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev 3-1997) and the [Draft] Code of Hygienic Practice for Packaged (Bottled) Drinking Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters).

4.2 The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997).

[4.3 APPROVAL OF THE WATERS DEFINED BY ORIGIN

Approval of the water origin must be based upon a field inspection of the source and the recharge zone that shall demonstrate the integrity of the source and safety of the catchment operations consistent with the local regulatory requirements.]

5. PACKAGING

The product shall be packed in sealed retail containers suitable for preventing the possible adulteration or contamination of water and shall be in accordance with the applicable sections of the [Draft] Code of Hygienic Practice for Packaged (Bottled) Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Waters)⁸.

6. LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985, Rev. 1-1991), the following provisions shall apply:

6.1 THE NAME OF THE PRODUCT

[6.1.1 The name of the product shall be the appropriate term as defined in Section 2.1.

6.1.2 Water containing carbon dioxide that emerges from the source and is packaged directly with its entrapped gas or from which the gas is mechanically separated and later reintroduced at a level not higher than naturally occurring in the water, may bear on its label the words *naturally carbonated* or *naturally sparkling*.

6.1.3 Packaged water which contains carbon dioxide at levels than those naturally occurring in the source of the product shall be labelled with the words *carbonated, carbonation added, or sparkling.*

6.2 ADDITIONAL LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

6.2.1 *Mineral content:* If the content of total dissolved substances of the water is below 500 ppm, or if it is greater than 1,500 ppm, the statement "Low mineral content", or a similar term or the statement "High mineral content", or a similar term respectively, may appear on the principal display panel following the statement of identity.

If labelling indicates the amount of specific minerals present in the product, the label shall describe the amount in mg/l.

6.2.2 *Fluoride:* Packaged water containing added fluoride shall be labelled "Fluoridated water". Any water that is called fluoridated water shall contain not less than 0.8 mg/l fluoride ion. If the product contains more than 1 mg/l of fluoride, the following term shall appear on the label as part of, or in close proximity to, the name of the product or in the otherwise prominent position : "Contains fluoride". In addition, the following sentence should be included on the label: "The product is not suitable for infants and children under the age of seven years" where the product contains more than 2 mg/l fluorides.

6.2.3 *Geographic location:* The geographic location may be indicated on the label for artesian, spring or well water.

6.2.4 *Water from water distribution system:* When drinking water is supplied by a public or private tap water distribution system, the wording "From a public or private distribution system" must appear along with the name of the product on the front of the main label.

⁸ Being developed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

6.3 LABELLING PROHIBITIONS

Claims concerning medical (preventive, alleviative, or curative) effects relating to the health of the consumer, in respect of the properties of the product covered by the standard, may be made only in accordance with the Codex General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985, Rev. 1-1991), as amended.

The way in which labels on packaged water are presented must not cause confusion with other categories of water, particularly natural mineral water, as defined in the Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108–1981, Rev. 1-1997).]

7. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

To be developed for endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.