# codex alimentarius commission





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**ALINORM 01/20** 

# JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-fourth Session, Geneva, 2-7 July 2001

# REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

Fribourg, Switzerland, 30 October - 01 November 2000

Note: This document incorporates the Circular Letter CL 2000/45-NMW.

# codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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CX 5/40.2 CL 2000/45-NMW December 2000

**TO:** Codex Contact Points

**Interested International Organizations** 

**FROM:** Secretary, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CODEX

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS (ALINORM 01/20)

The report of the Seventh Session of the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters will be considered by the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius

Commission (Geneva, 2-7 July 2001)

MATTERS: MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE TWENTY FOURTH SESSION OF THE

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AT STEP 8 OR 5/8** 

1. PROPOSED DRAFT GENERAL STANDARD FOR BOTTLED/PACKAGED DRINKING WATERS (OTHER THAN NATURAL MINERAL WATERS) AT STEP 5/8 (ALINORM 01/20 - APPENDIX II)

Governments and interested international organizations wishing to submit comments or to propose amendements to the above standard should do so in writing in conformity with the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts and the Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8 (See *Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*, Eleventh Edition, pages 23-27) to the Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,00100 Rome, Italy, Fax: +39 06570 54593, Email: Codex@fao.org before 1st February 2001

2. AMENDEMENT TO THE STANDARD ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS - SECTION 3.2 HEALTH RELATED LIMITS FOR CERTAIN SUBSTANCES AT STEP 8 (ALINORM 01/20 - APPENDIX III)

Governments and interested international organizations are invited to comment on the above amendment to the standard and should do so in writing in conformity with the Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8 (See *Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*, Eleventh Edition, pages 26-27) to the Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,00100 Rome, Italy, Fax: +39 06570 54593, Email: Codex@fao.org before 1st February 2001

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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

#### MATTERS OF INTEREST BY THE COMMISSION

# The Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters agreed to:

- (a) Advance the former Proposed Draft Codex General Standard for Packaged (Bottled) Waters Other Than Natural Mineral Waters at Step 5 of the procedure (Para. 33 and Appendix II), and the Committee
  - renamed the Proposed Draft Standard to the Proposed Draft Standard for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Waters) and requested the Commission to consider its immediate adoption. (Para. 11), and
  - requested the Codex Alimentarius Commission to omit Steps 6 and 7 and to consider the Proposed Draft as a *Draft Standard for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Waters)* for adoption at Step 8 (Para. 33);
- (b) Amend the levels of Health Related Limits for Certain Substances in the Revised Codex Standard on Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981, Rev.1.-1997) so that they would be consistent with the WHO Guidelines on Drinking Water Quality and to send them to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants for endorsement and to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption (Paras. 35-36 and Appendix III);
- (c) Adjourn *sine die*, considering that it had completed the work assigned to it by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. (Para. 39).

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# REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

Fribourg, Switzerland, 30 October-1 November 2000

# **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters held its Seventh Session in Fribourg, Switzerland from 30 October to 1 November 2000, at the kind invitation of the Swiss Government. The session was chaired by Dr. Urs Klemm, Chairman, Swiss National Codex Committee, and it was attended by 98 Delegates, advisors and observers from 35 Members of the Commission and 8 observers from 5 international governmental and non-governmental organizations. A full list of participants, including members of the Secretariat, is given in Appendix I to this report.

# **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA<sup>1</sup> (Item 1)**

2. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda as the Agenda for the Session, but changed the order of discussion of items to take Item 4 in advance of Item 3.

# MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES<sup>2</sup> (ITEM 2)

#### HEALTH-RELATED LIMITS FOR CERTAIN SUBSTANCES

3. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC, 31<sup>st</sup> Session, 1999) had endorsed the Health-Related Limits for Certain Substances (Section 3.2 of CODEX STAN 108-1981, Rev.1-1997) with the exception of the limits for Arsenic, Barium, Manganese and Selenium. The CCFAC had agreed to bring the levels for natural mineral waters into line with the WHO Guidelines on Drinking Water Quality, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. However, Commission at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Session noted that there had been no consensus on the endorsement of these levels and agreed that they should be returned to the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters for further consideration, followed by endorsement by the CCFAC. The Commission adopted the remaining health-related limits.<sup>3</sup> The Committee noted that this matter would be discussed under Item 4 of the present Agenda.

# DRAFT CODE OF HYGIENIC PRACTICE FOR BOTTLED/PACKAGED DRINKING WATERS (OTHER THAN NATURAL MINERAL WATERS)

4. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH, 32<sup>nd</sup> Session, 1999) had advanced the Draft Code to Step 8 of the Procedure for final adoption by the Commission.<sup>4</sup>

# STATUS OF CODEX TEXTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TBT AGREEMENT

5. The Committee noted that this matter had been discussed by the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP, 14<sup>th</sup> Session, 1999) and it had been agreed that all Codex texts, including standards and their annexes were covered by the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.<sup>5</sup> It was further

<sup>2</sup> CX/NMW 00/2

CX/NMW 00/1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> ALINORM 99/12A, paras 89-92; ALINORM 99/37, paras. 197-200.

ALINORM 01/13, Appendix II

ALINORM 99/33A, para. 61.

noted that under the Agreement, countries were not obliged to implement international standards automatically, but if an international standard existed or their completion was imminent, such standards or relevant parts of them, should be used in the development of any national standards for the same products except where such international standards or relevant parts would be ineffective or inappropriate.<sup>6</sup>

# PROPOSED DRAFT GENERAL STANDARD FOR BOTTLED/PACKAGED WATERS OTHER THAN NATURAL MINERAL WATERS AT STEP 4<sup>7</sup> (Agenda Item 3)

- 6. The Committee noted that at its last session a new approach based on the classification of bottled/packaged waters into two broad categories had been supported by the Committee (ALINORM 99/20, para, 6). Since the last session efforts had be made by several Delegations, led by Canada, to resolve many of the outstanding issues in the Proposed Draft Standard on the basis of this new approach. The Committee agreed to use the annotated text of the Proposed Draft Standard (CX/NMW 00/3) as the basis for its discussions, taking into account revised sections tabled during the course of the present session as appropriate, in particular Conference Room Document No. 7, prepared by the Delegation of Canada.
- 7. In agreeing to follow the new approach, the Committee noted that many of the detailed definitions of different types of bottled/packaged waters were to be removed from the standard and that revised labelling provisions would be used to provide flexibility at the national level for the designation of various types of water. It was noted that this was a compromise based on the previous approach taken in the proposed draft standard and the opinions and comments of many countries.
- 8. The Delegation of the United States stated that the purpose of Codex Standards was to protect consumers' health and ensure fair practices in food trade. The Delegation stated that specific definitions would be particularly useful for consumer protection and to avoid confusion and deception. Nevertheless, the Delegation stated that in the interest of recognizing cultural traditions and traditional marketing practices, it could accept the present compromise.
- 9. The Delegation of Japan expressed its full support for the position of the United States and stated that it would have preferred the inclusion of a specific definition for "mineral water", but that it could also accept the compromise being proposed.
- 10. The Delegation of France, speaking on behalf of the Members of the European Union stated that the proposal was aimed at ensuring the free movement of goods that met the requirements of safety, protection of the consumer and fair practices in trade and that the compromise being proposed was also acceptable to these Delegations.

Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 2.4.

ALINORM 99/20, Appendix II; CL 1998/44-NMW; CX/NMW 00/3 (Comments of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Japan, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, USA, International Soft Drink Council, Groupement International des Sources d'Eaux Minérales Naturelles et des Eaux de Sources); CX/NMW 003 Corrigendum (Canada); CX/NMW 00/3-Addendum 1 (Comments of Argentina, Italy, International Bottles Waters Association); CX/NMW 00/3-Addendum 2 (Comments of the European Community); CRD 2 (Comments of Canada); CRD 3 (Comments of WHO); CRD 5 (Comments of India); CRD 6 (Comments of Philippines); CRD 7 (Canada – revised text of the Proposed Draft Standard taking into account prior comments).

#### TITLE OF THE STANDARD

11. The Committee noted proposals to simplify the title of the standard, by deleting reference to the expressions "bottled" and "other than natural mineral waters". The Committee also noted that the CCFH had finalized its work on the "Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Waters)" and some delegations stated that it was important for the term "drinking" to be maintained. Some Delegations noted that the expression "drinking water" was frequently used in official texts to designate a much broader range of waters than those covered by the standard. The Committee decided to align the title to be consistant with that of the Code of Hygenic Practice.

# 1. SCOPE

12. The Committee agreed to make reference to the use of the products covered by the standard as waters "for drinking purposes" and to make direct reference to "prepackaged/bottled" waters suitable for human consumption. It was noted that the Scope as worded, referred to containers ready for offer to the consumer or for catering purposes. It was noted that the Scope took into account the possible use of packaged/bottled waters by consumers for purposes other than drinking, for example for cooking or for the preparation of infant foods.

# 2. **DESCRIPTION**<sup>8</sup>

# 2.1 Packaged Waters

13. It was agreed to deleted reference to "added" sugars, sweeteners, etc., and to enlarge the exclusion to all "foodstuffs".

# 2.1.1 Waters Defined by Origin

14. The Committee agreed to the basic separation of packaged/bottled waters in two main types: waters defined by origin, and prepared waters. It was agreed that "waters defined by origin" would refer to all waters from specific environmental resources and marketed as such. These would include both ground and surface waters (including rain water) provided that they met the requirements of the standard.

# 2.1.2 Prepared Waters

15. The Committee agreed that "prepared waters" included all packaged /bottled waters that do not comply with the provisions established for waters defined by origin. These would include "purified water" as noted by the Delegation of India. The Committee agreed to specify that they may originate from any type of water supply.

# 3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

# 3.1 Modification and Handling of Packaged Waters

16. The Committee agreed that antimicrobial treatments for waters defined by origin should be used solely in order to conserve the original microbiological safety and amended the text of Sub-section 3.1.1.2 accordingly.

Paragraph numbers refer to the text of the Proposed Draft Standard as presented in Appendix II to this report.

# 3.2 Chemical and Radiological Quality of Packaged Waters

17. The Committee agreed that the standard should comply with the health-related requirements of the most recent *Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality* published by the WHO. It agreed that no reference need be made to the recommendations other than the health-related requirements contained in the WHO Guidelines.

18. The Committee agreed to delete reference to the addition of "other substances" in Section 3.2.2, and made reference to the possible addition of minerals in accordance with the Codex General Standard for Food Additives and/or the General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (in the latter case, where such additions were made for nutritional purposes).

#### 4. HYGIENE

#### 4.1 Code of Practice

19. It was noted that the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters) contained provisions for packaging that referred to the Recommended International Code of Practice – General Principles of Food Hygiene. The Committee agreed to retain the reference to packaging in this Sub-section and to delete the separate Section on Packaging in the Proposed Draft Standard.

# 4.2 Source Approval and Inspection of the Source for Waters defined by Origin.

20. It was agreed that the microbiological standards to which the source waters must conform would be the requirements set out in the WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water, and the draft text was amended accordingly.

# **PACKAGING**

21. As noted above, this Section was deleted as the relevant provisions were included in the Code of Practice referred to in Section 4 – Hygiene.

# 5. LABELLING (FORMERLY SECTION 6)

# 5.1 Name of the Product

- 22. All of the paragraphs dealing with the labeling of waters defined by origin were grouped together. In addition, the Committee added a new paragraph covering the possibility of blending waters of different origin, in which case the origins of the individual waters should be declared.
- 23. In relation to non-carbonated waters, the Committee agreed to extend the examples of the terms used to describe these products in the English version of the Standard.

# 5.2 Additional Labelling Requirements

# **Chemical Composition**

24. The Committee had a brief discussion concerning the establishment of a minimal level of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), as proposed by the Delegation of India, in relation to the declaration of TDS content on the package. It was noted that the WHO Guidelines had no recommended limits, either upper or lower, for TDS and that distilled or demineralized was commercialized in some countries, as

noted by the Delegation of the USA. The inadvisability of using distilled or demineralized water as the only dietary source of water was noted.

#### Fluoride

25. The Committee requested the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) and the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) to determine the criteria regarding the appropriate of fluoride content of packaged waters for dental hygiene and/or the criteria for mandatory declaration and permitted claims.

# Geographic Location

- 26. The Committee had an extended discussion concerning the requirements for the designation of the geographic location of waters defined by origin. In view of the differing cultural and traditional practices in this regard, the Committee agreed to a compromise text prepared by a working group, that referred the matter to national authorities having jurisdiction in accordance with applicable legislation.
- 27. In the course of the discussion, a question was raised as to the applicability of the standard to products intended for export. It was noted that the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius indicated that Codex standards should apply at the point of import and to domestic production: it was assumed that products for export were required to meet the requirements of the importing country.

# Prepared Water from a Water Distribution System

28. The Committee simplified the proposed text and also removed reference to quantitative limits on modifications to the total dissolved solids, while maintaining the original intent of the proposal.

#### **Treatments**

29. Several Delegations raised questions concerning the mandatory declaration of disinfection treatments and the Committee noted the differing cultural and traditional practices followed in Member countries in this matter. Several delegations stated that the question was relevant only to waters defined by origin, as it would be expected that prepared waters would normally be treated. It was agreed to follow the same compromise agreed to in the case of declaration of geographic location.

# 5.3 Labelling Prohibitions

30. The provisions of this Section were aligned with the Codex Standard on Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981, Rev.1-1997).

# Waters Used for the Preparation of Infant Foods and Formulae

31. The Committee noted proposals for the introduction of provisions governing statements in relation to the acceptability of packaged waters for the preparation of infant foods and formulae. It was noted that this was a matter of general concern that had implications for quality and safety requirements of all types of waters. The Committee therefore requested the CCNFSDU to consider the matter in association with the CCFH and CCFL as appropriate, with the view to establishing guidance on the quality and safety criteria and on labelling requirements. Since the matter was considered to be of a general nature, the Committee was of the opinion that the guidance should be developed in the framework of the Codex Standards and Codes of Practice for foods for infants and children.

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Procedural Manual, 11th ed., 2000, pp 31 et seq.

# 6. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING (FORMERLY SECTION 7)

32. The Committee agreed to follow the formulation used in the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters and make reference to Volume 13 of the *Codex Alimentarius*. The Delegation of Hungary noted that a comprehensive list of methods covering definition of terms, sampling of waters, measurement and reporting of water characteristics had been prepared by ISO Technical Committee 147. The Delegation of Brazil noted that difficulties existed in the interpretation of the WHO Guidelines on Drinking Water in relation to the sampling and determination of total coliform bacteria in treated water in a distribution system if these should be applied to the products covered by the Standard.

# STATUS OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARD FOR PACKAGED (BOTTLED) WATERS OTHER THAN NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

- 33. The Committee noted that the revised text of the Proposed Draft Standard had been developed in the spirit of compromise and that consensus had been reached on all of the outstanding issues. It agreed therefore to advance the text to Step 5 of the Procedure and to request the Commission to omit Steps 6 and 7 and to consider the text for adoption at **Step 8**. It was noted that certain sections of the texts still required endorsement by the relevant general Codex Committees. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Delegation of Canada for the work undertaken to enable the Committee to arrive at the such a satisfactory conclusion.
- 34. The complete text of the revised Proposed Draft Standard is attached to this report as Appendix II<sup>10</sup>.

# CODEX STANDARD FOR NATURAL MINERAL WATERS: LIMITS FOR HEALTH-RELATED SUBSTANCES $^{11}$ (Agenda Item 4)

- 35. The Committee noted the Commission at its 23rd Session had adopted Section 3.2 of the Standard: "Health-Related Limits for Certain Substances" with the exception of those for Arsenic, Barium, Manganese and Selenium and had requested that they be further considered by the Committee following which they should be submitted to the CCFAC for endorsement (see para. 3, above).
- 36. The Delegation of the USA indicated that a level of 0.005 mg/L for Arsenic was likely to come into force in that country in the near future. All delegations that spoke supported the inclusion of levels that were consistent with the WHO Guidelines on Drinking Water Quality, Second Edition, 1993.

#### STATUS OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE REVISED CODEX STANDARD FOR NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

37. The Committee agreed to amend the levels in the standard so that they would be consistent with the WHO Guidelines and to submit these to the CCFAC for endorsement and to the Commission for adoption. The revised levels are shown in Appendix III of this report.

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At the time of the adoption of the report, Appendix II was adopted in the English version only.

<sup>11</sup> CX/NMW 00/4; CRD 1 (Comments of Thailand); CRD 3 (Comments of WHO)

# OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK(Agenda Item 5)

38. There was no other business. The Committee did not foresee any future work.

# DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 6)

39. The Committee, considering that it had completed the work assigned to it by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission, agreed to adjourn *sine die*.

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# ANNEX I

# **SUMMARY STATUS OF WORK**

Subject	Step	Action by	Reference in ALINORM 01/20
Proposed Draft Standard for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Waters)	5/8	CAC 24 <sup>th</sup> Session	Para. 33 and Appendix II
Amendment to the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters: Health Related Limits	Amendement for adoption	CAC 24 <sup>th</sup> Session	Para. 37 and Appendix III

# APPENDIX I

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APPENDIX II

# PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR BOTTLED/PACKAGED DRINKING WATERS (OTHER THAN NATURAL MINERAL WATERS)

(Advanced at Step 5/8 of the Codex procedure)

#### 1 SCOPE

This Standard applies to waters for drinking purposes other than Natural Mineral Waters as defined in the Revised Codex Standard 108 - 1981 (Rev. 1 - 1997), that are prepackaged/bottled<sup>1</sup> 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 sugars, sweeteners, flavourings or other foodstuffs.

# 2.1.1 Waters Defined by Origin

"Waters defined by origin", whether they come from the underground or from the surface, defined under the present standard share the following characteristics:

- (a) they originate from specific environmental resources without passing through a community water system;
- (b) precautions have been taken within the vulnerability perimeters to avoid any pollution of, or external influence on, the chemical, microbiological and physical qualities of water at origin;
- (c) collecting conditions which guarantee the original microbiological purity and essential elements of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As defined in Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: "prepackaged foods to be offered as such to consumer or for catering purposes".

their chemical make-up at origin;

(d) from the microbiological standpoint, are constantly fit for human consumption at their source and are kept in that state with particular hygienic precautions until and while packaging in accordance with provisions of sections 3 and 4;

(e) are not subject to any modification or treatment other than those permitted under Section 3.1.1

# 2.1.2 Prepared Waters

"Prepared waters" are waters that do not comply with all the provisions set for waters defined by origin under subsection 2.1.1. They may originate from any type of water supply.

# 3 ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

#### 3.1 MODIFICATIONS AND HANDLING OF PACKAGED WATERS

# 3.1.1 Permitted physicochemical modifications and antimicrobial treatments for the waters defined by origin.

Waters defined by origin must not, prior to packaging, be modified or subjected to treatments other than those described in subsections below with the proviso that these modifications or treatments and the processes<sup>2</sup> used to achieve them do not change the essential physicochemical characteristics nor compromise the chemical, radiological and microbiological safety of these waters when packaged:

# 3.1.1.1 Selective treatments that modify the original composition:

- reduction and/or elimination of dissolved gases (and resulting possible change in pH);
- addition of carbon dioxide (and resulting change in pH) or re-incorporation of the original carbon dioxide present at emergence;
- reduction and/or elimination of unstable constituents such as iron, manganese, sulphur (as S<sup>0</sup> or S<sup>-</sup>) compounds and carbonates in excess, under normal conditions of temperature and pressure, of the calcocarbonate equilibrium;
- addition of air, oxygen or ozone on condition that the concentration of by-products resulting from the ozone treatment is below the tolerance established under section 3.2.1;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> These processes include the techniques listed in Section 5.2 of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other Than Natural Mineral Waters) with the proviso that such techniques comply with the provisions outlined in Section 3.2.1 of the present draft standard.

- decrease and/or increase in temperature;
- reduction and/or separation of elements originally present in excess of maximum concentrations or of maximum levels of radioactivity set according to section 3.2.1;

# 3.1.1.2 Antimicrobial treatments for the waters defined by origin

Antimicrobial treatments may be used singly or in combination solely in order to conserve the original microbiological fitness for human consumption, original purity and safety of waters defined by origin.

# 3.1.2 Physical and chemical modifications and antimicrobial treatments for prepared waters

Prepared waters can be subjected to any microbial treatments and any treatments that modify the physical and chemical characteristics of the original water on condition that such treatments result in prepared waters that comply with all provisions of section 3.2 and 4 regarding the chemical, microbiological and radiological safety requirements for pre-packaged waters.

# 3.2 CHEMICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF PACKAGED WATERS

# 3.2.1 Health-related Limits for Chemical and Radiological Substances

No packaged water shall contain substances or emit radioactivity in quantities that may be injurious to health. To this effect, all packaged water shall comply with the health-related requirements of the most recent "Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality" published by the World Health Organization.

# 3.2.2 Addition of minerals

Any addition of minerals to water before packaging must comply with the provisions outlined in the present standard and, where applicable, with the provisions in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (STAN 192-1995, Rev. 1-1997) and/or the Codex General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (CAC/GL 9-1987).

#### 4 HYGIENE

#### 4.1 CODE OF PRACTICE

It is recommended that all waters covered by the provisions of this standard be collected, transported, stored, and if applicable treated, and packaged in accordance with the Recommended International Code of Practice – General Principles of Food Hygiene – CAC/RCP 1-1997, Rev. 3-1997 – and in accordance with the Code of Hygienic Practice for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (other than Natural Mineral Waters).

# 4.2 APPROVAL AND INSPECTION OF THE SOURCE FOR WATERS DEFINED BY ORIGIN

Initial approval or inspection of the source of waters defined by origin should be based upon appropriate scientific study adapted to the type of resource (hydrogeology, hydrology, etc.) and based on field survey of the source and of the recharge zone that shall demonstrate the safety of the source, the facilities and collection operations. The initial inspection of the source must be confirmed on a regular basis by periodic monitoring of the essential constituents, temperature, flow (in the case of natural springs) and the chemical and radiological factors specified under section 3.2.1 and the microbiological standards established in conformity with the latest "Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality" published by the World Health Organization. The results of source inspection should be made available to the importing country upon request.

# 5 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:

# 5.1 NAME OF THE PRODUCT

Countries may select appropriate names for products, to be specified in national legislation, that reflect local consumer expectations arising from cultural and traditional practices.

However, in establishing such labelling requirements, consideration should be given to ensuring that any product complying with this standard may be represented in a way that reflects its classification within the standard and that consumers are not misled.

**5.1.1** The name of the product shall be as follows, depending on its classification in accordance with Section 2.1.

# 5.1.1.1 Waters defined by origin

Any appropriate name (or names) in the case of waters that comply with the criteria described under section 2.1.1 and that meet additional criteria established by each country including restricting the name of such water to certain names or only one name. In the case of blends or mixtures of waters from different environment resources, each resource shall be labelled.

Only waters defined by origin, in accordance with the present standard, can be represented by names that refer to the origin or give an impression of specific origin. The names used or chosen by the countries, in accordance with the present standard, to represent prepared waters cannot apply to waters defined by origin and vice versa. When applicable, the additional criteria established by the countries for the definition of the chosen names cannot contravene the provisions of the present standard.

# **5.1.1.2** Prepared waters

Any appropriate name (or names) to designate prepared waters described under section 2.1.2 and that meet additional criteria established by each country including restricting the name of such water to certain names or only one name.

## 5.1.2 Carbonation

# 5.1.2.1 The following respective declarations should appear on the label in accordance with the following criteria:

In the case of ground waters defined by origin, "naturally carbonated" or "naturally sparkling" if, after packaging, carbon dioxide spontaneously and visibly is given off under normal conditions of temperature and pressure and the carbon dioxide originates from the source at emergence and is present at the same level as was present originally at emergence, with a possible re-incorporation of gas from the same source, taking into consideration a technical tolerance of  $\pm 20$  %.

In the case of ground waters defined by origin, "fortified with carbon dioxide" if, after packaging, carbon dioxide spontaneously and visibly is given off under normal conditions of temperature and pressure and the carbon dioxide originates from the source at emergence but is present at a level at least 20% higher than the quantity present originally at emergence, with a possible re-incorporation of gas from the same source.

In the case of all waters, "carbonated" or "sparkling" if, after packaging, carbon dioxide spontaneously and visibly is given off under normal conditions of temperature and pressure and the carbon dioxide does not entirely originate from the same source as that of the water at emergence.

**5.1.2.2** Words such as "non carbonated" or "non sparkling" or "still" may apply if, after packaging, there is no visible and spontaneous release of carbon dioxide under normal conditions of temperature and pressure when the packaged is opened.

#### 5.2 ADDITIONAL LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

# 5.2.1 Chemical composition

The total dissolved solid content of packaged waters may be declared on the principal display panel. With regard to waters defined by origin, the chemical composition that confers the characteristics to the product may also be declared on the label.

# 5.2.2 Geographic location

Where required by the authorities having jurisdiction, the precise geographic location of the specific environmental resource and/or the source of a water defined by origin must be declared in the manner prescribed in the applicable legislation.

# 5.2.3 Prepared Water from a Water Distribution System

When prepared water is supplied by a public or private tap water distribution system and subsequently packaged/bottled, but has not undergone further treatment that would modify its original composition or to which carbon dioxide or fluoride have been added, the wording "From a public or private distribution system" must appear on the label along with the name of the product on the principal display panel.

# 5.2.4 Treatments

Where required by the authorities having jurisdiction, if a packaged/bottled water has been modified by a permitted treatment before packaging, the modification or the result of the treatment must be declared on the label in a manner prescribed in the applicable legislation.

# 5.3 LABELLING PROHIBITIONS

- **5.3.1** No claims concerning medicinal (preventive, alleviative or curative) effects shall be made in respect of the properties of the product covered by this standard. Claims of other beneficial effects related to the health of the consumer shall not be made unless true and not misleading.
- **5.3.2** The name of the locality, hamlet or specified place may not form part of the trade name unless it refers to a water defined by origin collected at the place designated by that trade name.
- **5.3.3** The use of any statement or of any pictorial device which may create confusion in the mind of the public or in any way mislead the public about the nature, origin, composition and properties of packaged waters put on sale is prohibited.

# 6 METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

See Codex Alimentarius Volume 13.

# APPENDIX III

# Amendment to the section 3.2. Health-Related Limits for Certain Substances of the revised *Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters* <sup>1</sup>

The limits for Arsenic, Barium, Manganese and Selenium were adopted by the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters at its Seventh session as follows<sup>2</sup>:

3.2.2	Arsenic	0.01 mg/l, calculated as total As
3.2.3	Barium	0.7 mg/l
3.2.11	Manganese	0.5 mg/l
3.2.16	Selenium	0.01 mg/l

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  CODEX STAN 108 - 1981, Rev. 1 - 1997

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> These levels are submitted for endorsement to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and for approval by the Codex Alimentarius Commission