



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS
Fifth Session
Virtual, 20 - 29 April 2021

Comments from Canada

Agenda Item 2 Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies

B. Matters for Action

45th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling

Section 8.3 and 8.3.1 "Country of Origin/Country of Harvest"

Agenda Items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

Canada supports clear origin labelling provisions that are consistent across all standards for spices and culinary herbs.

Canada believes that the provisions for 'Country of Origin' and 'Country of Harvest' should be separate. We agree with the advice provided from CCFL that the labelling provision should be clear on requirements for declaration of country of origin and country of harvest, and note that the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Food* sets clear criteria on what should be considered as the country of origin, which could be different from the country of harvest.

Canada has reviewed all draft standards currently under development at CCSC and we note that the origin labelling sections are different for each standard. We believe that the origin labelling provisions should be as **consistent** as possible across all standards for spices and culinary herbs, unless there is a rationale to be different.

Upon review of the three CCSC standards adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2017, the *Standard for Black, White and Green Peppers*, the *Standard for Cumin*, and the *Standard for Dried Thyme*, we note that all three official standards have the country of origin labelling provision as **optional**.

Canada notes the advice from CCFL that the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Food* provides for mandatory declaration of the country of origin if its omission would mislead or deceive the consumer. We believe optional origin labelling is consistent with this advice.

Canada supports consistent labelling provisions across all standards for spices and culinary herbs. As such Canada supports

- clear labelling provisions to separate country of origin from country of harvest; and
- to allow these labelling provisions to each be optional for all standards under consideration, unless its omission would mislead or deceive the consumer.

Therefore Canada proposes the following text for **all standards** for spices and culinary herbs, and to be included in the template under Agenda Item 9.2.

8. LABELLING

8.2.3 Country of Origin (**optional**)

8.2.3.1 Country of Harvest (**optional**)