

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda item 3.4

CX/EXEC 26/90/3 Add.3
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Ninetieth Session
WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
29 June – 3 July 2026

CRITICAL REVIEW - PART IV

(standards for adoption and monitoring of work progress – CCFL, CCFFP)

Note: For general information about the critical review as well as the critical review for CCSCH8 and CCFH55, please see CX/EXEC 26/90/3. For the critical review for CCFO29 and CCMAS45, please see CX/EXEC 26/90/3 Add.1, and for the critical review for CCRVDF28 and CCFA56, please see CX/EXEC 26/90/3 Add.2.

Structure of appendices

1. The work of the different committees is addressed in separate appendices.
2. The current structure of the appendices for each committee is as follows:
 - A. General information on the committee and session
 - B. Status of work items (Overview) with explanatory notes as relevant from the Codex Secretariat and Chairperson's comments on specific work items
 - C. Chairperson's comments on the overall work of the committee in light of the purpose of the critical review

List of appendices

- Appendix 1: Codex Committee on Food Labelling, 49th session (CCFL49)
- Appendix 2: Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, 37th session (CCFFP37)

Appendix 1

A. General information on the committee and session

Committee	Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)		
Host	Canada	Chairperson	Dr Parthi Muthukumarasamy
Session reported on	CCFL49	11 – 15 May 2026	
Next session	CCFL50	TBD, 2nd half of 2027	
Report	REP26/FL		

B. Status of work items (Overview)

Existing work item(s) for decision by the Commission (adoption, revocation, discontinuation)						
Topic	Job number	Target year	Recommendation of the committee	Scientific advice	Reference	Explanatory notes (if any)
1. Annex to the <i>General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods</i> (CXS 1-1985): Guidelines on the use of precautionary allergen labelling	N10-2019	2026	Adoption at Step 8	Available	REP26/FL, paragraph 91i, Appendix III	<p>CCEXEC87(2024) and CAC47(2024) had agreed to extend the deadline for completion of the work until 2026, and it was completed as scheduled.</p> <p>The work on the labelling of allergens was undertaken in two parts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1 addressed revision of the provisions relevant to allergen labelling in CXS 1-1985, which was completed at CCFL48 (2024). Part 2, which deadline was extended to 2026, is an Annex to CXS 1-1985, has now been completed.
2. Amendments to the <i>General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods</i> (CXS 1-1985): Provisions relevant to joint presentation and multipack formats	N06-2023	2028	Adoption at Step 5/8	-	REP26/FL, paragraph 115, Appendix IV	CCFL48 (2024) and CCFL49 (2026) discussed this work and completed it ahead of the timeline.
3. Guidelines on application of food labelling provisions in emergencies	N20-2024	CCFL50	Adoption at Step 5/8	-	REP26/FL, paragraph	This work was finalized within a single session, ahead of the timeline.

					139, Appendix V	
4. The use of “country of origin” and “country of harvest”	-	-	For consideration	-	REP26/FL, paragraph 35, Appendix II	CCFL49 agreed to forward draft labelling provisions for consideration by CAC with a view to address the outstanding provisions on COO and COH in the <i>Standard for dried floral parts – Saffron</i> (CXS 351-2022).

Chairperson’s comments on specific work items(s) from the above in light of the purpose of the critical review

CCFL made significant achievements this session, forwarding 3 agenda items to CAC for adoption at step 8. I would like to acknowledge delegates for the hard work over the past several years and the spirit of cooperation throughout the week in order to find common ground and compromise.

Topic 1: For precautionary allergen labelling, the full day physical working group held just prior to CCFL49 was pivotal in discussing and progressing key areas. Through discussion in plenary, consensus was reached on the guidelines, with a reservation from Thailand on the mandatory application of the reference doses for allergenic foods as a sole criterion for the use of precautionary allergen labelling. These guidelines are the final piece of a larger package of work on allergens at CCFL that began in 2019. With completion of work, CCFL agreed to inform CCFH and CCNFSDU, for consideration in their work agenda. CCFL also requested FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat to consider capacity building activities related to allergens.

Topic 2: For the work on multipack formats and joint presentation, updated working document were prepared based on the circular letter comments just prior to the session. In addition, an in-session working group was established during the lunch break and evening to facilitate the discussion and work toward consensus in plenary.

Topic 3: For the guidelines on food labelling provisions in emergencies, a virtual working group held prior to CCFL49 facilitated discussion in key areas. There was broad consensus on the text, noting the appropriate balance between the need for safeguards to ensure food safety and prevent misleading information, and the need to guide competent authorities in applying temporary, risk-based labelling flexibilities during emergencies.

Topic 4: Regarding the use of “country of origin” (COO) and “country of harvest” (COH), discussion was held on a proposal from the Chairperson, developed based on the EWG report. CCFL49 agreed on 9 conclusions on Codex provisions on origin labelling, to be used as guiding principles by CCSCH when determining origin related labelling provisions for SCH commodities. For the outstanding provisions on COO and COH in the Standard for dried floral parts – Saffron (CXS 351-2022), discussion was held on 3 options to finalize these provisions, based on the conclusions and consensus that in the case of dried saffron, the COO and the COH were the same. The committee agreed on the text of the draft labelling provisions and agreed to forward them for consideration by CAC with a view to address the outstanding provisions in the saffron standard. In addition, CCFL49 also recommended that the Codex Secretariat consider organising a workshop or side event for CCSCH on CCFL labelling texts. Delegates demonstrated the spirit and cooperation of Codex throughout the discussions.

In addition to the work items, CCFL49 endorsed labelling provisions in 8 standards for adoption at Step 5, 5/8 or 8. With regard to the CCSCH Draft standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries - Requirements for vanilla, the committee agreed to amend and endorse the amended labelling provisions and inform CCSCH accordingly, noting the reservations of the USA and Madagascar. The committee also agreed to inform CCSCH of the discussion on “trade name” for consideration in future standards, and to remind CCSCH that any mandatory provisions in commodity standards shall align with the CXS 1-1985, and any exemption shall be clear and fully justified.

C. Chairperson's comments on the overall work of the committee in light of the purpose of the critical review

CCFL49 was extraordinarily efficient, completing all major work items, with 2 completed ahead of schedule. Although no new work items were agreed upon at this session, CCFL maintains an inventory of possible future work topics for delegations to prepare discussion papers on. CCFL49 held discussion on the topic of a definition of small packages, with the expectation of further discussion and review of a project document at CCFL50, to be informed by a CL.

In light of the success of CCFL49 and the capacity to consider additional topics at CCFL50, a discussion paper will be prepared on a strategic forward plan for CCFL including elements such as the need for a structured framework to review, prioritize, and update existing texts, the identification of future work and emerging issues, and potential capacity building approaches and activities to enhance implementation of labelling texts.

A. General information on the committee and session

Committee	Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)		
Host	Norway	Chairperson	Ms Vigdis Synnøve Veum
Session reported on	CCFFP37	7 April - 7 May 2026	
Next session	CCFFP38	TBC	
Report	REP26/FFP		

B. Status of work items (Overview)

Existing work item(s) for decision by the Commission (adoption, revocation, discontinuation)						
Topic	Job number	Target year	Recommendation of the committee	Status of endorsement (where applicable)	Reference	Explanatory notes (if any)
1. Standard for laver products	N12-2025	CCFFP39	Adoption at Step 5	The food additive provisions are pending endorsement by CCFA. The food labelling provisions have not yet been forwarded to CCFL.	REP26/FFP paragraph 47ii and Appendix II	CCFFP37 agreed to slightly expand the scope of the draft standard for laver product to include the genus <i>Porphyra</i> , and to submit the draft standard for adoption at step 5 with square brackets for Sections 3.1.2, 7.1, 8.1, and 8.2 for further consideration of the outstanding issues by an electronic working group (EWG).
2. Taxonomic updates in the <i>Standards for canned tuna and bonito</i> (CXS 70-1981), <i>canned sardines and sardine-type products</i> (CXS 94-1981), and <i>quick frozen lobsters</i> (CXS 95-1981)	-	-	Adoption	-	REP26/FFP paragraph 72i and Appendix III	CCFFP37 identified need for taxonomic updates of species names in three standards (CXS 70-1981, CXS 94-1981, CXS 95-1981).

Chairperson's comments on specific work items(s) from the above in light of the purpose of the critical review

CCFFP37 held a constructive discussion on the standard for laver products, with broad agreement reached on the outcome.

Regarding the scope, there were suggestions to expand it further. However, in light of the new work proposal on a group standard for seaweed, consensus was reached on a more limited expansion of this particular standard.

Existing work item(s) for decision by the Commission (adoption, revocation, discontinuation)

It was also clarified that referencing the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods* (CXC 75-2015) would ensure that relevant hygienic practices for dried seaweeds are adequately addressed. This code covers key aspects such as the control of pathogenic microorganisms, prevention of contamination during drying and storage, management of contaminants, and the application of good hygiene practices throughout the supply chain.

A question was raised as to whether seaweeds should be considered as plants rather than falling within the scope of fisheries and aquatic products. It was then noted that seaweeds present food safety risks that differ from those associated with fruits, vegetables, and edible fungi, as well as from other categories of algae. The Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) may wish to take this information into consideration in the event that it revisits the food categories (FCs) within the GSFA.

From a procedural perspective, it is worth noting that the discussion would likely have benefited from a physical meeting. An in-person session would provide better opportunities for informal exchanges outside the plenary, as well as more effective clarification and interaction during the proceedings.

Existing work item(s) for information by the Commission (information, monitoring)**Information**

Topic	Reference	Explanatory notes (if any)
3. Having a review of the Codex texts under its purview as a standing agenda item for CCFFP sessions.	REP26/FFP paragraph 76	CCFFP37 agreed to establish an EWG to continue the review of the Codex texts under the purview of CCFFP37 for taxonomic accuracy and have a review of the Codex texts under its purview as a standing agenda item for CCFFP sessions.
4. New work proposals on development of a group standard for seaweed and a code of practice for the production of seaweeds	REP26/FFP paragraphs 115ii and iii	Two new work proposals regarding seaweed were discussed. However, CCFFP37 noted the need for further work including a gap analysis and scoping exercise. The proposal on development of a group standard for seaweed will be further discussed in an EWG. The two revised new work proposals are expected to be submitted for consideration by CCFFP38.

Chairperson's comments on specific issues for monitoring and information in light of the purpose of the critical review

Also, for these topics it is worth noting that the discussion would likely have benefited from a physical meeting. An in-person session would provide better opportunities for presenting new work proposals, informal exchanges, as well as more effective clarification and interaction during the proceedings.

C. Chairperson's comments on the overall work of the committee in light of the purpose of the critical review

I would like to highlight that, although CCFFP37 was able to complete its agenda within the allocated timeframe, conducting the session over an extended period of one month proved to be highly time-consuming for all parties involved. I also consider that CCFFP37 could have reached agreement on a greater number of issues had the session been held in person.

In this regard, it would likely be more effective to convene physical sessions, where delegates have greater opportunities to interact, exchange views, and engage in informal discussions outside the plenary. Such settings typically facilitate more efficient progress and clearer consensus-building.

Consequently, I would recommend that the work of CCFFP be resumed through in-person meetings, allowing CCFFP to operate more actively and effectively in future sessions.