

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

CAC/42 CRD11

Original Language Only

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty second Session

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland, 8 - 12 July 2019

#### ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXT AT STEP 5

*Comments of Iran*

### PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR THE LABELLING OF NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS OF FOODS

(at Step 5)

#### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of [these Guidelines] / [this Standard] is to facilitate appropriate harmonized labelling of non-retail containers of food and to outline what information shall be presented on the label and what information, while not required on the label, must be provided with a non-retail container by other means.

#### 2. SCOPE

[These Guidelines] / [This Standard][apply] / [applies] to the labelling of non-retail containers of food<sup>1</sup> (excluding food additives and processing aids)<sup>1,2</sup> not intended to be offered directly to the consumer<sup>1</sup> including the information provided in the accompanying physical documents or by other means, and the presentation thereof.

#### 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purpose of [these Guidelines] / [this Standard], the relevant definitions in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985) apply. In addition, the following terms have the meaning as defined below:

“**Food Business**” means an entity or undertaking, carrying out one or more activity(ies) related to any stage(s) of production, processing, packaging, storage and distribution (including trade) of food<sup>1</sup>.

“**Non-retail container**” means any container<sup>1</sup> that is not intended to be offered for direct sale to the consumer<sup>1</sup>. The food<sup>1</sup> in the non-retail containers is for further food business activities before being offered to the consumer<sup>1</sup>.

#### 4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The following general principles apply to the labelling of non-retail containers:

<sup>1</sup> As defined in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985)

<sup>2</sup> This Guideline/Standard is not intended to apply to the labelling of food additives and processing aids for which the *General Standard for the Labelling of Food Additives When Sold as Such* (CXS 107-1981) applies.

4.1 The general principles established in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (GSLPF) apply equally, as appropriate, to the labelling of non-retail containers of foods.

4.2 The labelling requirements for non-retail containers of foods should be differentiated clearly from the labelling requirements for prepackaged<sup>1</sup> foods.

4.3 The non-retail containers should be clearly identifiable as such.

4.4 The non-retail status of a container shall be determined by the food business selling or distributing the container of food

4.5 The labelling requirements for non-retail containers should be established taking into account the information requirements and implementation capabilities of the relevant stakeholders (food business and competent authorities).

4.6 Subject to the requirements outlined in Section 5, the information requirements in respect of non-retail containers of food may be met through means other than on a label as allowed by the competent authority in the country in which it is sold.

4.7 The label and information in the accompanying documents or information provided by other means shall be traceable to the food in the non-retail container and shall provide information to enable the labelling of food, intended for sale to the consumer.

## 5. MANDATORY INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS ON LABEL:

The following information shall appear on the label of non-retail containers of food,:

### 5.1 The name of the food

5.1.1 The name shall indicate the true nature of the food and normally be specific and not generic.

5.1.1.1 Where a name or names have been established for a food in a Codex standard, at least one of these names shall be used.

5.1.1.2 In other cases, the name prescribed by national legislation shall be used.

5.1.1.3 In the absence of any such established or prescribed name, either a common or usual name existing by common usage as an appropriate descriptive term which is not misleading or confusing to the food business or in the country in which the food is intended to be sold shall be used.

5.1.1.4 A "coined", "fanciful", "brand" name or "trade mark" may be used provided it accompanies one of the names provided in Subsections 5.1.1.1 to 5.1.1.3.

5.1.1.5 Where the non-retail container contains multiple types of food, the names of all the foods contained therein and/or a commonly understood descriptor that best explains the foods present together in the container shall be provided on the label, as allowed by the competent authority in the country in which the product is sold.

### 5.2 Lot identification

Each non-retail container shall be marked in code or in a manner to clearly identify the producing factory and the lot.

5.3 Date marking and storage instructions<sup>3</sup> only when they are related to the safety and integrity of the product.

### 5.4 Identification of a non-retail container

The non-retail containers of foods shall be clearly identifiable as such. If the container is not clearly identifiable as a non-retail container the container shall:

- bear a statement to indicate that the food is not intended to be sold directly to consumer<sup>2</sup> or to clearly identify it as a non-retail container. Some examples of such statements are:

"NON-RETAIL CONTAINER"

"NON-RETAILCONTAINER - NOT FOR DIRECT SALE TO CONSUMER"

Or,

**Commented [pr1]:** It is better to define an integrated way for all producers/sellers of non-retail containers to mention same labels on their products

**Commented [pr2]:** Need more details

**Commented [pr3]:** Name and also its definition such as usage, cautions, preservatives, etc are important to be mentioned.

**Commented [pr4]:** Not only for safety and integrity of the product but also all aspects of foods since of the different circumstances of countries may causes unknown changes or even harms.

**Commented [pr5]:** This statement is necessary to mention.

<sup>3</sup> Information to be provided as in the relevant section of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985)

- carry any other mark that indicates that the container is not intended to be sold directly to a consumer
- 5.5 Name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor of the food shall be declared.
- 5.6 Where a non-retail container contains multiple types of food, the information in respect of all the above provisions in Section 5 should be provided for all the foods contained therein.
- 6. MANDATORY INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS BY MEANS OTHER THAN LABEL**
- 6.1 The information that shall be provided in the accompanying documents, or through other appropriate means, is the following:
- Information provided on the label as identified in Section 5;
  - if not all on the label:
    - o information sufficient to enable the preparation and labelling of pre-packaged foods from the food in the non-retail container<sup>4</sup>;
    - o net content of the non-retail container.
- 6.2 The information provided in the accompanying documents, or through other appropriate means, shall be effectively traceable to the food in non-retail container.
- 7. [BULK TRANSPORT CONTAINERS]**
- 7.1 In the case of bulk transport containers such as shipping containers, tankers, barges, drums etc., that are not amenable to possess a label, all the information stipulated in section 5 shall be provided in the accompanying documents or through appropriate other means (e.g. electronically between food businesses) and shall be effectively traceable to the food in such containers.
- 8. [EXEMPTION]**
- In the case of non-retail container which provide visual and legible access to the information on the label of prepacked foods, inside such non-retail containers, the information stipulated in section 5 is not required.
- 9. PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION**
- 9.1 General**
- 9.1.1 Labels on non-retail containers of foods shall be applied in such a manner that they will not become separated from the container.
- 9.1.2 Information and the statements required to appear on the label by virtue of [these Guidelines] / [this Standard] or any other Codex Standards shall be clear, prominent, readily legible and applied in such a manner that any tampering with it will be evident.
- 9.1.3 The mandatory information requirements on label (Section 5) shall appear in a prominent position on the non-retail container and in the same field of vision.
- 9.1.4 Information that is provided by means other than the label shall be readily accessible, discernible and clearly displayed.
- 9.2 Language**
- 9.2.1 If the language in the original labelling is not acceptable to the competent authority or the food business in the country in which the product is sold, a translation of the information in the labelling should be provided in the required language in the form of re-labelling, supplementary label and/or in the accompanying documents or other appropriate means to meet the requirements of the country in which the product is sold.
- 9.2.2 The information provided through translation in the required language shall fully and accurately reflect that in the original labelling.

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Commented [pr7]: By producer

<sup>4</sup> CXS1-1985 and other relevant Codex labelling text