

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION E



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations**



**World Health  
Organization**

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REP 12/FL

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

*Thirty Fifth Session*

*Rome, Italy, 2-7 July 2012*

## REPORT OF THE FORTIETH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

**Ottawa, Canada  
15 – 18 May 2012**

**Note:** This report includes Circular Letter CL 2012/15-FL.



CX 5/15

CL 2012/15-FL  
May 2012

TO: Codex Contact Points  
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: **Distribution of the Report of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (REP12/FL)**

### MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE 35<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION:

#### Draft Guidelines at Step 8 of the Procedure

1. Draft Revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning a new definition of "nutrient reference values" (para. 46, Appendix IV).
2. Draft amendment to the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* (CAC/GL 32-1999): use of ethylene for ripening of fruit (para. 71 and Appendix VI)

#### Draft Guidelines Step 5/8 of the Procedure

3. Proposed Draft Revision of the *Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) concerning a new definition for "non-addition claim", conditions for free of salt claims, amendments to the section on comparative claims and conditions for non-addition of sugars claims (para. 39, Appendix II).
4. Proposed Draft Revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning provisions for mandatory nutrition labelling (para. 67, Appendix V).
5. Proposed Draft amendment to the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* concerning inclusion of new substances (paras 76 and 80 and Appendix VII).

#### Draft Guidelines at Step 5 of the Procedure

6. Proposed draft revision of the *Guidelines for use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) concerning Non-Addition of Sodium Salts (para. 39, Appendix III).

Governments and interested international organizations wishing to comment on the above, should do so in writing, in conformity with the *Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts* (Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission) to the Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org), **before 15 June 2012**.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The summary and conclusions of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling are as follows:

### **Matters for adoption by the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission:**

The Committee advanced to Step 8 the following:

- Draft Revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning a new definition of “nutrient reference values” (para. 46, Appendix IV); and
- Draft amendment to the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* (CAC/GL 32-1999): use of ethylene for ripening of fruit (para. 71 and Appendix VI);

Advanced to Steps 5/8 the following:

- Proposed Draft Revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) concerning a new definition for “non-addition claim”, conditions for free of salt claims, amendments to the section on comparative claims and conditions for non-addition of sugars claims (para. 39, Appendix II);
- Proposed Draft Revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning provisions for mandatory nutrition labelling (para. 67, Appendix V);
- Proposed Draft amendment to the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* concerning inclusion of new substances (paras 76 and 80 and Appendix VII).

Advanced to Step 5 the following:

- Proposed draft revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997) concerning Non-Addition of Sodium Salts (para. 39, Appendix III).

### **Other Matters of Interest to the Commission:**

The Committee:

- Returned the *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods* (CAC/GL 32-1999): Organic Aquaculture to Step 2 for redrafting by an electronic working group, circulation for comments at Step 3, for consideration by a physical working group and for consideration at Step 4 at the next session (para. 86); and
- Agreed that the topic modified standardized common names should be removed from the agenda (para. 101).

### **Matters referred to other Codex Committees**

The Committee agreed to request the *Committee on Nutrition of Foods and Special Dietary Uses* (CCNFSDU) to:

- Give advice as to whether the condition for 10% of the NRV for comparative claims for micronutrients (section 6.3 in the *Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims*) is still in line with current evidence based guidance on micronutrients, particularly in light of the work being undertaken on NRV (para. 27);
- Give advice on the establishment of conditions for claims for “free” of TFA and if the advice was positive, whether the claims should be made per100ml or 100g or per serving (paras. 34 and 35);
- Consider requesting CCMAS to review questions related to methods for trans fatty acids in foods (para. 36).

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## REPORT OF THE 40th SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

### INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Committee on Food Labelling held its Fortieth Session in Ottawa, Canada from 15-18 May 2012, at the kind invitation of the Government of Canada. Mr Paul Mayers, Associate Vice-President Policy and Programs Branch, Canadian Food Inspection Agency chaired the Session. The Session was attended by 220 delegates representing 63 Member Countries, 1 Member Organization, and 20 International Organizations. A complete list of participants is attached as Appendix I to this report.

#### Division of Competence<sup>1</sup>

2. The Committee noted the division of competence between the European Union and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as presented in CRD 13.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)<sup>2</sup>

3. The Committee agreed to discuss (time permitting) the following items under Agenda Item 7 Other business, future work and date and place of the next session: Provisions on date marking (CRD 5, New Zealand), information on a new regulation on organic wine (European Union) and labelling of food derived from crops biofortified by natural selection (IFPRI). The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda with the additions above as its Agenda for the Session.

#### MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 2)<sup>3</sup>

4. The Committee noted that some matters were for information and that several matters would be considered under other agenda items.

#### CONSIDERATION OF LABELLING PROVISIONS IN DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS (Agenda Item 3)<sup>4</sup>

##### FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East

##### Regional Standard for Harissa (CODEX STAN 308R-2011)

5. The Committee agreed with the addition of an optional name "harissa (red hot pepper paste)" for the product and endorsed the labelling provisions.

##### Regional Standard for Halwa Tehenia (CODEX STAN 309R-2011)

6. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions as proposed.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR DIET, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH (Agenda Item 4)

##### PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR USE OF NUTRITION AND HEALTH CLAIMS (CAC/GL 23-1997): ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS FOR NUTRIENT CONTENT CLAIMS AND COMPARATIVE CLAIMS (Agenda Item 4a)<sup>5</sup>

7. The Committee recalled that its last session had agreed to establish a working group chaired by Canada with the following terms of reference:

- To develop proposed text for inclusion in the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims for non-addition claims for sugars and salt consistent with the principles agreed at the 39th Session and consider the placement of text.

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<sup>1</sup> CRD 13 (Division of the competence between the European Union and its Member States)

<sup>2</sup> CX/FL 12/40/1

<sup>3</sup> CX/FL 12/40/2

<sup>4</sup> CX/FL 12/40/3; CRD 16 (Comments of India); CRD 21 (Comments of Thailand)

<sup>5</sup> CX/FL 12/40/4, CX/FL 12/40/4-Add.1 (comments of Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Nigeria, United States of America, ICBA, IDF, IFT), CRD 1 (comments of FoodDrinkEurope), CRD 2 (comments of EU), CRD 8 (comments of Philippines), CRD 14 (comments of Malaysia), CRD 15 (comments of Ecuador), CRD 18 (comments of Republic of Korea), CRD 16 (comments of India), CRD 21 (comments of Thailand)

- To propose an amendment to the text of section 6.3 to clarify that sodium would be captured in the claims that would require a change of 25% in order to be made.
- To review paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4 of the current Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims and consider adding an additional paragraph in order to have separate paragraphs for conditions for each of the three types of comparative claims; namely:
  - claims related to reducing the energy or nutrient content (e.g. “reduced”/”lower”);
  - “light” claims; and
  - claims related to having more of a nutrient (e.g. “more”).
- To develop claims and conditions for use related to trans-fatty acids for inclusion in the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims.

8. The Delegation of Canada introduced the report of the working group and the Committee considered the proposals put forward for each section as presented below.

### **Non Addition Claims**

#### Definition

9. The Committee noted that the proposal for a definition of non-addition claims in section 2.1.1 had been put forward in the working group while considering the non-addition claims for sugars and salt. Several delegations supported the definition proposed by the working group as it would be useful to clarify the nature of these claims.

10. Some delegations and one observer expressed the view that there was no need to establish a new category of claim as the purpose of the amendment to the Guidelines was to address specifically the non-addition of sugars and salt, not to establish a new category of claims. The Committee considered the following two proposals for amendment: referring to “any claim that an ingredient or nutrient has not been added...” and deleting the text “thereby implying that a specific nutrient had not been added to that food”. One delegation emphasized that this type of claim refers to ingredients. After some discussion the Committee agreed with the second proposal in order to simplify the text noting that the definition was in the context of the Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims and as the conditions for the claim would be defined in another section. It was agreed to insert the amended definition as section 2.1.3.

#### Section 7

11. The Committee agreed that the title should read “Non addition claims” as the sub-sections 7.1 and 7.2 would refer to sugars and salt, and deleted the introductory text under the title as it was already included in the second sentence of the definition.

#### 7.1 Non-addition of sugars

12. The Committee agreed with the text proposed for Section 7.1 Non-addition of sugars.

#### 7.2 Non-addition of salt

13. The Committee discussed the two options proposed by the working group: Option 1 referring to sodium salts and Option 2 referring to salt (sodium chloride).

14. Several delegations and one observer supported Option 1, as in order to apply the recommendation of the Global Strategy it was essential to reduce sodium from all sources, and not only from sodium chloride, and this option would not prevent reformulation of foods as many substitutes existed for sodium salts.

15. Other delegations and some observers supported Option 2 as they considered that Option 1 was too restrictive and that efforts should concentrate on the reduction of salt as an ingredient, which was consistent with the objectives of the Global Strategy and with the Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt as sodium chloride, and would allow reformulation of foods to reduce salt. Some delegations proposed to apply a phased approach and to leave the possibility for governments to apply one or the other option.

16. The Committee considered a proposal to retain Option 1 referring to sodium salts, and to insert a footnote to the effect that “national authorities may decide to use the non addition of sodium or the non addition of salt criteria to underpin a non addition of salt claim”. Some delegations did not support the footnote as the selection of the option should not be left to national governments but should be harmonised at the international level.

17. Some delegations pointed out that sodium salts other than sodium chloride could be used for technological purposes and that national authorities should allow such addition provided that it did not result in a significant increase in sodium content. For this purpose it was proposed to limit such addition by

applying the condition for 'low' in sodium. Some delegations expressed concern with leaving the decision to national authorities. Other delegations did not support the addition of an additional condition which would make the requirements for non-addition more restrictive than initially intended. An observer expressed the view that the technological purpose should be clarified and that such considerations should not take precedence over health protection.

18. After some further discussion it was agreed to add the following footnote to the text of Option 1 "National authorities may permit the addition for technological purposes of sodium salts other than sodium chloride where such addition would not result in the food not meeting the conditions for "low in sodium" claims as described in the Table to these Guidelines".

19. The title of the section was amended to read "Non-addition of sodium salts" in order to ensure consistency with the text, as Option 1 referred to sodium salts. The Committee also agreed to delete the reference to condiments as many are mainly composed of spices for flavouring purposes and have no impact on salt intake; and in (c) to clarify that the claim relates to "sodium salts that are used to substitute for added salt", following some discussion on the use of seaweed.

### **7.3 Additional Conditions**

20. One observer pointed out that disclaimers should not be used in isolation as they did not provide clear information to consumers. Another observer expressed the view that allowing additional conditions was not consistent with international harmonisation and there were other means of informing the consumer, and that if additional conditions were retained, a reference to social research should be included as well as examples, as mentioned in the report of the working group. The Committee also noted a comment that disclaimer statement "should" (rather than "may") be developed based on evidence of consumer use and understanding. The Committee however agreed to retain the text as proposed in the working document.

### **Section 5. Nutrient content claims**

21. The Committee agreed to add a new section 5.2 allowing claims to the effect that a food is free of salt provided the food meets the conditions for free of sodium listed in the Guidelines and the following section was renumbered accordingly. One delegation suggested that the word "sodium" be added before the word "salt" however, the Committee did not pursue this proposal.

### **Comparative Claims**

#### Section 6.3

22. The Committee considered the revised text proposed by the working group following the recommendation of its last session to split the current section 6.3 into two sections: the first addressing the decreased content of a nutrient or energy and requiring a reduction of 25% in sodium (new 6.3); and the second related to the increased content of a nutrient or energy (new 6.6).

23. There was general agreement that sodium should be included in the nutrients requiring a reduction of 25%, although it is generally considered a micronutrient, and it was proposed to make a specific reference to sodium in paragraph 6.3(a).

24. One delegation pointed out that a clear difference should be established between foods with a decreased nutrient content and foods that are inherently lower in a nutrient and proposed to amend the text accordingly.

25. The Committee considered several alternative proposals to amend the text and noted that they may create some confusion on the establishment of "decreased" claims for micronutrients other than salt, which were generally unlikely and for which no conditions for a "low" claim had been set. As it was recalled that the main purpose of the amendment was to clarify requirements for claims on sodium, the Committee agreed to retain the current section 6.3 on comparative claims with the following changes in the first part of the paragraph: "The comparison should be based on a relative difference of at least 25% in the energy value or nutrient content including sodium...". The new proposed section 6.6 was therefore deleted as all types of comparison claims were included in section 6.3.

26. One delegation proposed that the increase in micronutrient be based on 10% of the micronutrient content between the compared foods rather than on the NRV, which was not commonly used at the national level, and suggested to refer question to the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU).

27. As a result of the above discussion, the Committee agreed to request advice from the CCNFSDU as to whether the condition for 10% of the NRV for comparative claims for micronutrients (section 6.3 in the Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims) is still in line with current evidence based guidance on micronutrients, particularly in light of the work being undertaken on NRV.



#### Section 6.4

28. The Committee noted that the working group had proposed another condition in section 6.4 to avoid claims on “reduced in saturated fats” for foods in which trans fatty acids have been increased.

29. The Delegation of Malaysia did not support this new section and the association of saturated fat with trans fatty acids as they are different in their composition as well as in their physiological effects. This position was supported by an Observer. Another Observer proposed to establish a distinction between naturally occurring trans fatty acids and industrial trans fatty acids.

30. Other delegations pointed out that both saturated fat and trans fatty acids had similar adverse effects on health, that WHO recommended the elimination of trans fatty acids and therefore it was essential to ensure that a decrease in saturated fats did not result in an increase in trans fatty acids. It was also recalled that in the Table of conditions for claims the conditions for saturated fats should take into account trans fatty acids. After some discussion, the Committee agreed with the text proposed in the working document for section 6.4, and amended the text to read “decreased saturated fat content” deleting the reference to “lower” saturated fat content.

31. The Delegation of Malaysia expressed a reservation on this decision.

#### Section 6.5

32. Some delegations pointed out that the term “light” was not used as a synonymous claim to “reduced” in their countries as consumers expected that it would reflect a reduction in energy or nutrient content higher than 25%, and it could also be understood as a “low” claim. The Committee recalled that the condition for “reduced” mentions “at least 25%”, which allows national authorities to apply a higher percentage in the reduction. The Committee agreed to retain the text as proposed in the working document.

#### **Trans fatty acids (TFAs)**

##### Claim for “free” of TFAs

33. The Committee noted that the working group generally supported establishing a “free” claim for TFAs and not to pursue consideration of claims for low in trans fatty acids because the Global Strategy recommends their virtual elimination. One delegation proposed to establish two categories of foods for the purpose of defining the proposed claim: oils and fats, oil and fat emulsion (water in oil or oil in water) and ready to eat or other foods.

34. The Committee agreed to ask the CCNFSDU to provide advice on the establishment of conditions for claims for “free” of TFA and to consider this question further in the light of this advice at the next session.

35. As regards the establishment of the claims per 100 g, per 100 ml or per serving, some delegations supported claims per 100 g or per 100 ml only while other delegations supported the establishment of claims per serving as these were used in several countries and well understood by consumers, and claims per serving were already established for other nutrients. Additionally it was noted that conditions per serving would help maintain consistency with the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling, which allow nutrient declaration per serving. Some delegations expressed concern about claims per serving as the serving sizes could be changed to permit a claim in countries that do not have standardized serving sizes. The Committee noted that these questions would have to be discussed by the CCNFSDU if that Committee agreed to develop conditions for these claims.

##### Methods of analysis

36. The Committee recalled that the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling have a footnote to the list of nutrients that should always be declared, stating that countries where the level of intake of trans-fatty acids is a public health concern should consider the declaration of trans-fatty acids in nutrition labelling as well as a definition for trans fatty acids. The Committee agreed to request that CCNFSDU consider requesting CCMAS to review method AOCS Ce 1H-05 for trans fatty acids in foods as it is only applicable to certain types of fats and oils. The method AOAC 996.06 has already been recognized as a Type II method for the same Guidelines for the measurement of saturated fatty acids. It may be more pertinent to also consider this as a Type II method for trans fatty acids for the purposes of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling and potentially for the Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims.

37. The Committee recognised that all main issues had been addressed on all the sections discussed above and that they could be finalised, with the exception of section 7.2 Non-addition of Sodium Salts, which would require further consideration at the next session.

38. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Canada and to the working group for their excellent work, which had allowed significant progress on several complex issues.

### **Status of the Draft Revision of the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims: Additional conditions for nutrient content claims and comparative claims**

39. The Committee agreed to forward all the sections discussed above to Step 5/8 for adoption by the 35th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (see Appendix II), with the exception of section 7.2 Non-Addition of Sodium Salts, which was advanced to Step 5 (see Appendix III).

### **DRAFT DEFINITION FOR NUTRIENT REFERENCE VALUES FOR INCLUSION IN THE GUIDELINES FOR NUTRITION LABELLING (CAC/GL 2-1985) (Agenda Item 4b)<sup>6</sup>**

40. The Committee recalled that the 34th CAC had adopted the proposed draft definition of nutrient reference values at Step 5 and circulated it for comments at Step 6 as follows:

“Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) are a set of numerical values that are based on scientific data for purposes of nutrition labelling and relevant claims. NRVs are based on levels of nutrients associated with nutrient requirements, or with the reduction in the risk of diet-related non-communicable diseases.”

41. Many delegations supported the definition. One editorial change, to amend “non-communicable” to read “noncommunicable”, was agreed.

42. Some delegations proposed to clarify who was responsible for establishing the NRVs by including the words “and established by competent authorities or recognized international organizations” in the first sentence of the definition.

43. Other delegations considered that this responsibility was addressed appropriately in the General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values of which the first part (for vitamins and minerals) had been annexed to the Guidelines and the second part (for NRV-NCD) was under development in the CCNFSDU. A reference to these general principles should be included in the definition.

44. One delegation proposed to delete “with the reduction in the risk of diet-related non-communicable diseases” from the definition as they did not see the justification for including NRV-NCD in this definition because the science for developing NRVs for macronutrients related to noncommunicable diseases was still inconclusive.

45. One observer proposed to include the word “optimal” in front of “nutrient requirements”.

After some discussion the Committee agreed to leave the definition unchanged with the one editorial amendment mentioned above and to include a footnote to the name of the definition as follows: “See also the Annex for the General Principles for the Establishment of Nutrient Reference Values”.

### **Status of the draft definition of Nutrient Reference Values**

46. The Committee agreed to advance the draft definition of nutrient reference values as contained in Appendix IV to Step 8 for adoption by the Commission and for inclusion in Section 2 of the Guidelines for Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985) after the definition for “nutrient declaration”.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR MANDATORY NUTRITION LABELLING (Agenda Item 4c)<sup>7</sup>**

47. The Delegation of Australia, as the Chair of the eWG, recalled the history of the discussions on mandatory nutrition labelling, which had started based on the Draft FAO/WHO Action Plan for the Implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (CL 2006/44-CAC) where it was proposed that Section 3.1 of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling be amended to require that the nutrient declaration be mandatory on the labels of all pre-packaged foods. The 36th CCFL (2008) had developed a project document determining the following actions: revise the Guidelines and examine the list of nutrients that are always declared on the mandatory or voluntary basis; developing a discussion paper on issues and concerns related to mandatory nutrition labelling (ALINORM 10/33/22, Appendix III) and after determination of the list of nutrients to be declared commencing work on consideration of the requirements for mandatory nutrition labelling.

<sup>6</sup>CX/FL 12/40/5; CX/FL 12/40/5-Add.1; CX/FL 12/40/5 Add.2; CX/FL 12/40/5-Add.3; CRD 14 (Malaysia); CRD 18 (Republic of Korea); CRD 19 (Mali); CRD 21 (Thailand)

<sup>7</sup>CX/FL 12/40/6 and -/Add.1; CRD 1 (FoodDrinkEurope); CRD 2 (EU); CRD 4 (United States); CRD 6 (Costa Rica); CRD 8 (Philippines); CRD 14 (Malaysia); CRD 16 (India); CRD 17 (Jamaica), CRD 19 (Mali), CRD 20 (Consumers International), CRD 21 (Thailand); CRD 22 (IACFO)

48. In principle there had been support in the eWG for introducing mandatory nutrition labelling and in its conclusion the eWG had proposed to make nutrient declaration mandatory for all foods without explicitly including any exemptions or making reference to national circumstances. The eWG noted a diversity of views regarding mention of national circumstances including the view that consideration of these is implicit in Codex guidelines.

49. However, there had been concerns because of different capacities of members to implement mandatory nutrition labelling and also different views as to whether the list of nutrients always to be declared should be the same as the list contained in the Guidelines, or if a shorter list of nutrients may be more appropriate..

50. The eWG had also found an omission in current Section 3.1.1 where only nutrition claims were mentioned as triggering mandatory nutrition labelling. However, health claims also trigger mandatory nutrition labelling and should be mentioned.

51. One delegation said that nutrition labelling for 'all other foods' should only be mandatory for the four core nutrients: energy, available carbohydrate, protein and fat. They also proposed a phased approach to mandatory nutrition labelling for all other foods commencing with the four core nutrients and advancing further in later years, which would facilitate its introduction, especially in developing countries, taking into account consumer understanding, national capabilities for analysis and monitoring of implementation, cost etc. This also would allow to take into account that not all nutrients listed in Section 3.2.1.2 are of the same concern in all countries.

52. Several other delegations stated that the list of nutrients to be declared should be as adopted by the 34th CAC and should not be revisited. However, it could be considered to take into account national circumstances and to exempt some foods from mandatory nutrition labelling, for example, on the basis of nutritional or dietary insignificance and small packaging.

53. The Committee agreed that it was only dealing with the question of nutrition labelling for prepackaged foods and it was not the intention to regulate unpackaged foods. To clarify this, it was agreed to add "prepackaged" in front of the word "foods" in the proposed amendments to Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2.

54. Many delegations were of the opinion that it was important to take into account national circumstances and mentioned the need for guidance material and technical assistance, especially for developing countries, to assist in implementing various aspects of mandatory nutrition labelling.

55. After some discussion, the Committee agreed that, as in the existing text, Section 3.1.1 would address the situation of prepackaged foods for which nutrition or health claims were made, in which case nutrient declaration would be mandatory. The reference to health claims would be included to correct the previous omission.

56. The Committee agreed further that Section 3.1.2 would state that nutrient declaration would also be mandatory for all other prepackaged foods but would define exemptions for national circumstances and specific foods or packaging for which nutrient declaration might not be appropriate or needed for example on the basis of nutritional or dietary insignificance or small packaging.

57. The Committee discussed whether specific examples for foods to be exempted should be included. However, there was no consensus on any of the proposed examples (i.e. spices, coffee, water etc.) and the Committee finally agreed to include only the general example of exemptions.

58. The Committee was of the opinion that further guidance on the exemptions could be provided at a later stage if necessary.

59. The Committee noted that the agreed text should be interpreted as follows: A nutrient declaration is mandatory for all prepackaged foods for which a nutrition or health claim is made even if those foods have been exempted under Section 3.1.2.

60. The Committee also recognized that in accordance with the agreed text and consistent with Codex procedures, no country was obliged to implement mandatory nutrition labelling.

61. Several observers welcomed the discussion of the Committee on mandatory nutrition labelling as a big step in the right direction. One observer said that the Committee should also deal with front-of-pack labelling (e.g. ratings or colour coding) to facilitate consumer understanding. This would be in line with the importance given by the United Nations General Assembly, which held a High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to reduce the impact of unhealthy diets.

62. The Representative of the FAO said that the FAO labelling tool under development includes a website and labelling will be incorporated into FAO technical assistance projects. The discussion paper in ALINORM 10/33/22, Appendix III was used as a starting point to develop a comprehensive tools. Research on front-of-pack labelling is included among the research articles made available to CCFL by FAO.

63. Several delegations expressed interest in having the above discussion paper easily available for interested parties.
64. The Committee agreed that the text would need significantly further discussion if it was to become an annex to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling.
65. The Representative of the FAO said that it was possible to include the complete document on the FAO website.
66. The Committee agreed that the discussion document should be part of the FAO website and that the Codex website would reference it.

#### **Status of the Proposed Draft Amendment to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling regarding mandatory nutrition labelling**

67. The Committee agreed to advance the proposed draft amendment as contained in Appendix V to this report to Steps 5/8 for adoption by the 35th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

#### **GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS (Agenda Item 5)**

68. The Committee recalled that at its last session it had agreed to establish an electronic working group, to continue considering the structured approach operating on a 2 year cycle on the revision of the Guidelines and any proposals for amendment including any specific proposals for the use of ethylene for ripening of fruit (item 5a) and the use of ethylene for sprout inhibition in onions and potatoes (item 5b). The working group would also consider the proposals from Australia on refining the process and the template as its tool with the objective to finalise both at the next session of the Committee (item 5e).

#### **Inclusion of Ethylene for Other Products at Step 7 – Use of Ethylene for the Ripening of fruit (Agenda Item 5a)<sup>8</sup>**

69. The Delegation of the United States, as Chair of the eWG, said that no proposal to include other fruits in the list had been received.
70. The Committee agreed to delete the text in square brackets and to advance the text to Step 8 noting that members could at any time propose extensions to the list.

#### **Status of the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Inclusion of Ethylene for Other Products: Use of Ethylene for the Ripening of Fruit**

71. The Committee agreed to advance the draft amendment to Step 8 for adoption by the 35th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Appendix VI).

#### **Other Uses of Ethylene (Agenda Item 5b)**

##### **Use of Ethylene as a Sprouting Inhibitor for Onions and Potatoes<sup>9</sup>**

72. The Delegation of the United States, as the chair of the eWG, said that the eWG had proposed the inclusion of ethylene as a sprouting inhibitor for onions and potatoes in Annex 2, Table 2 with two options: Option 1 without conditions and Option 2 with the condition of the “need recognized by the certification body or authority for sprout inhibition of stored potatoes and onions where varieties that have long dormancy characteristics are not available, or these varieties are not suited to local growing conditions”.
73. Both options were supported by several delegations. One delegation expressed the view that ethylene should not be used for this purpose because alternatives were available. Another delegation noted that it should be mentioned in the Guidelines that the use of ethylene should not substitute for good production, handling and storage practices if Option 1 was chosen. One delegation was of the opinion that due to new findings of risks of ethylene and risks to operators during ethylene production and other concerns, the proposal should be further examined (see CRD 23). One other delegation noted that ethylene had a long history of use in conventional agriculture without any clear evidence of harmful effects on consumers, workers and the environment.
74. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to establish an electronic working group co-chaired by the United States and Cameroon and working in English only with the terms of reference to continue considering the use of ethylene for sprout inhibition in onions and potatoes.

<sup>8</sup> ALINORM 10/33/22 Appendix VII; CX/FL 12/40/7; CRD 10 (Kenya); CRD 16 (India); CRD 21 (Thailand); CRD 23 (Norway)

<sup>9</sup> CX/FL 12/40/7; CRD 9 (Philippines); CRD 10 (Kenya); CRD 14 (Malaysia); CRD 16 (India); CRD 21 (Thailand); CRD 23 (Norway)

**Use of ethylene as a flowering agent for pineapples and for degreening of citrus for the purpose of fruit fly prevention<sup>10</sup>**

75. One delegation reiterated their concerns that due to new findings on risks of ethylene and its production, the proposal should be further examined (see CRD 23).

**Status of the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Use of ethylene as a flowering agent for pineapples and for degreening of citrus for the purpose of fruit fly prevention**

76. The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft amendment to Steps 5/8 for adoption by the 35th Session of the Commission (Appendix VII).

**Inclusion of Spinosad, Copper Octanoate, Potassium Bicarbonate (Agenda Item 5c)<sup>11</sup>**

77. One delegation was of the opinion that due to new scientific information, more research was needed on spinosad before it could be included and that copper octanoate had not been evaluated by relevant risk assessment bodies and should thus not be included at present.

78. Some delegations mentioned that spinosad might have negative impact on bees and molluscs. To address the issue, the Committee agreed to replace “the risk to parasitoids” with “the risk to non-target species”.

79. The Committee agreed to amend the name of “potassium bicarbonate” to read “potassium hydrogen carbonate” for consistency with the General Standard for Food Additives (CODEX STAN 192-1995).

**Status of the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Inclusion of Spinosad, Copper Octanoate, Potassium Bicarbonate**

80. The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft amendment to Step 5/8 with omission of Steps 6 and 7 for adoption by the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (Appendix VII).

**Organic Aquaculture (Agenda Item 5d)<sup>12</sup>**

81. The Committee recalled that at the last session it had agreed that the EU should redraft the proposal for consideration at this session.

82. The delegation of the EU introduced the document and said that comments made at and since the last session had been introduced into the document.

83. Many delegations, while welcoming the work on organic aquaculture, were of the view that the proposed draft needed further elaboration. Some delegations and one observer proposed further discussion on issues of disagreement, such as the allowance of closed circulation systems, origin of stock, conversion periods and use of parasiticides.

84. One delegation noted that the work should be done in accordance with existing Codex and OIE texts on aquaculture, such as Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 52-2003) and Aquatic Animal Health Code (2011), to avoid duplication and that the equality of aquaculture production and agriculture production should be recognized throughout the Guidelines by always using both terms. The Committee recalled its earlier decision to seek the advice of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, and the FAO Fisheries Department in the development of this text.

85. The Committee agreed to establish an electronic working group working in English only, followed by a physical working group working in English, French and Spanish to take place immediately prior to the next session of the Committee, both chaired by the European Union, to revise the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (GL 32-1999) to include Aquaculture Animals and Seaweed.

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<sup>10</sup> CX/FL 12/40/8; CX/FL 12/40/8-Add.1 (Brazil, Nigeria, Thailand); CX/FL 12/40/8-Add.2 (USA); CRD 9 (Philippines); CRD 10 (Kenya), CRD 19 (Mali)

<sup>11</sup> CX/FL 12/40/9; CX/FL 12/40/9-Add.1 (Brazil, Nigeria, Thailand); CX/FL 12/40/9-Add.2 (USA); CRD 9 (Philippines); CRD 10 (Kenya); CRD 14 (Malaysia); CRD15 (Ecuador); CRD 16 (India); CRD 19 (Mali); CRD 21 (Thailand); CRD 23 (Norway)

<sup>12</sup> CX/FL 12/40/10; CX/FL 12/40/10-Add.1 (Australia, Brazil, Iran, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway); CX/FL 12/40/10-Add.2 (Nigeria); CRD 3 (Argentina); CRD 7 (Ghana); CRD 9 (Philippines); CRD 11 (USA); CRD 12 (Canada); CRD 14 (Malaysia); CRD 15 (Ecuador); CRD 16 (India); CRD 19 (Mali); CRD 21 (Thailand)

### **Status of the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Organic Aquaculture**

86. The Committee agreed to return the proposed draft to Step 2 for redrafting by the above-mentioned electronic working group, for circulation for comments at Step 3, for consideration by the physical working group and for consideration at Step 4 at the next session.

#### **Structured Approach and Template (Agenda Item 5e)<sup>13</sup>**

87. The Committee recalled that at its last session it had agreed to re-establish the electronic working group, chaired by the United States, to consider the structured work approach operating on two-year cycle on the revision of the Guidelines for the Production, Processing and Labelling of Organically Produced Food.

88. With regard to a proposal to implement a “periodic review” similar to that for pesticide MRLs, it was noted that the lists in the Guidelines were fundamentally different from the lists for pesticide residues. The list in Table 2 of Annex 2 was indicative and the products were safe for use in food production. The assessment made by the Committee was only to establish if they were compatible with organic production systems.

89. The Committee also noted that in recent years, it had removed text on reviews from the Guidelines, recognizing that Codex texts were constantly under review and members could at any time make proposals in line with the procedures.

90. The Committee considered the proposed amended text described in CRD 25. The Committee agreed to rephrase the first paragraph to distinguish the criteria for assessment from the criteria for prioritization as follows: “Proposals for consideration may include environmental, socio-economic and/or trade implications and benefits to assist in prioritising their review.”

91. With regard to the second phrase, the Committee agreed to replace “that its” with “whether”.

92. The Committee agreed to attach this document to the report as Appendix VIII.

#### **MODIFIED STANDARDIZED COMMON NAMES FOR THE PURPOSE OF NUTRITIONAL MODIFICATION (Agenda Item 6)<sup>14</sup>**

93. The Committee recalled that it had considered this matter at previous sessions and had not reached consensus on whether CCFL should undertake new work in this area. The Codex commodity committees and FAO/WHO Regional coordinating committees had been consulted. The Committee noted that five Committees had considered this matter: CCFO, CCMMP and CCEURO did not see a need for horizontal guidance on the matter; CCPFV did not find a consensus on this issue and CCASIA had no specific advice.

94. The 39th CCFL had agreed to establish an electronic working group led by Canada and Hungary to prepare an inventory of existing Codex texts related to modified standardized common names for the purposes of nutritional modification that could serve to inform Codex members wishing to promote healthier food options. Fifty-five Codex texts with modified names are included in the inventory with a brief description of relevant sections. In their presentation of the paper, the delegation of Canada noted that this was one of the possible action items for implementation of the Global Strategy found in CL 2006/44-CAC.

95. The Committee welcomed the paper and thanked the working group for preparing it.

96. Several delegations felt that the inventory showed that Codex had been able to deal with these issues on a case-by-case basis. They were of the opinion that further work on this in CCFL was not necessary, as it should be dealt with through the commodity standards and endorsement. It was mentioned that modification of standardized common names could confuse consumers as to the properties and handling requirements of the modified foods and it could be better to find a new name for such products. It was also mentioned that there was lack of evidence that the use of modified names had a positive health effect on consumers.

97. One delegation said that the intent of the work was to support the WHO Global Strategy and many of the modifications described in the inventory would not be suitable for this purpose. The inventory could be a starting point for developing principles to modify products while keeping the quality so that a nutrient content claim could be made. Another delegation supported this view.

98. One member proposed to circulate the inventory as an information document to all Codex committees.

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<sup>13</sup> CX/FL 12/40/7; CRD 21 (Thailand); CRD 23 (Norway); CRD 25 (Australia and New Zealand)

<sup>14</sup> CX/FL 12/40/11, CRD 10 (Kenya); CRD 16 (India)

99 One observer proposed that commodity committees be again consulted on the question modified standardized common names however it was recalled that the advice of other committees had already been requested.

100. One observer said that the committee should focus on protecting the consumer from unhealthy ingredients (e.g. by replacing salt with potassium chloride) instead of pursuing other considerations.

101. The Committee concluded that there was no consensus to start new work on this matter and agreed that the topic should be removed from the agenda.

102. Some delegations asked how the inventory contained in the working document CX/FL 12/40/11 could be kept available for interested parties even though it was not an official Codex text. It was clarified that as a working document, the inventory was available on the Codex website and that the information was also contained in the relevant Codex standards.

## **OTHER BUSINESS, FUTURE WORK AND DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 7)**

### **Provisions on Date Marking<sup>15</sup>**

103. The Delegation of New Zealand noted that at an FAO/WHO sponsored workshop held in Tonga in conjunction with the 11th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP), the issue of date marking of prepackaged foods had been identified as a particular concern in the Pacific because of the dependence of the region on food imports.

104. The main concerns were that some prepackaged food products for sale in Pacific countries were not or inadequately date marked, or the date mark present was not relevant to the product due to freezing. This could lead to quality and safety issues and also in unnecessary waste of food products.

105. The Committee agreed that New Zealand would prepare a discussion paper outlining potential issues with the current Codex Guidelines (focusing on the definitions and section 4.7) and possibly a proposal for new work on date marking for consideration at the next session. One delegation noted that the work should be limited to marketability of products and quality attributes consistent with the current Codex guidelines.

### **Information on a New Regulation on Organic Wine**

106. The Delegation of the EU explained that it had recently adopted new rules for organic wine and that relevant information was available at <http://www.organic-farming.eu>

### **Labelling of Food derived from Crops Biofortified by Natural Selection**

107. The Observer of IFPRI presented their work on biofortification of crops by natural selection and asked the Committee how foods derived from such crops should be labelled.

108. The Committee noted that IFPRI could prepare a discussion paper on this issue for consideration at the next session. One delegation noted that IFPRI might also ask advice from appropriate committees. Another delegation noted that it would be important to identify challenges to such labelling. The Chairman mentioned that if delegations wished to give input to the discussion paper as it related to the mandate of CCFL, they could contact IFPRI

## **DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**

109. The Committee was informed that the 41st Session of the Committee was tentatively scheduled to be held in Prince Edward Island, Canada from 13 to 17 May 2013.

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<sup>15</sup>CRD 5 (New Zealand)

## SUMMARY STATUS OF WORK

SUBJECT MATTER	STEP	ACTION BY:	DOCUMENT REFERENCE (REP12/FL)
Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985): definition of Nutrient Reference Values	8	Governments 35 <sup>th</sup> CAC	para. 46 Appendix IV
Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (CAC/GL 32-1999): Inclusion of Ethylene for Other Products: Use of Ethylene for the Ripening of Fruit	8	Governments 35 <sup>th</sup> CAC	para. 71 Appendix VI
Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997): Additional conditions for nutrient content claims and comparative claims (except Section 7.2)	5/8	Governments 35 <sup>th</sup> CAC	para. 39 Appendix II
Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985): provisions for mandatory nutrition labelling	5/8	Governments 35 <sup>th</sup> CAC	para. 67 Appendix V
Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (CAC/GL 32-1999): Use of ethylene as a flowering agent for pineapples and for degreening of citrus for the purpose of fruit fly prevention	5/8	Governments 35 <sup>th</sup> CAC	para. 76 Appendix VII
Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (CAC/GL 32-1999): Inclusion of Spinosad, Copper Octanoate, Potassium Bicarbonate	5/8	Governments 35 <sup>th</sup> CAC	para. 80 Appendix VII
Draft Revision of the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997): Additional conditions for nutrient content claims and comparative claims (Section 7.2)	5	Governments 35 <sup>th</sup> CAC 41 <sup>st</sup> CCFL	para. 39 Appendix III
Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (CAC/GL 32-1999): Organic Aquaculture	2/3	eWG led by EU Governments pWG led by EU 41 <sup>st</sup> CCFL	para. 86
Discussion paper on Provisions on Date Marking	-	New Zealand 41 <sup>st</sup> CCFL	para. 105
Discussion paper on Labelling of Food derived from Crops Biofortified by Natural Selection	-	IFPRI 41 <sup>st</sup> CCFL	para. 108



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## Appendix II

**Proposed draft amendments to the Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims  
(CAC/GL 23-1997)****At Steps 5/8****Insert a new definition as follows:**

**“2.1.3 *Non-addition claim*** means any claim that an ingredient has not been added to a food, either directly or indirectly. The ingredient is one whose presence or addition is permitted in the food and which consumers would normally expect to find in the food”

**Insert a new 5.2 as follows:**

“5.2 A claim to the effect that a food is free of salt can be made, provided the food meets the conditions for free of sodium listed in the Table to these Guidelines.”

**Renumber existing 5.2 to 5.3****Amend existing 6.3 and 6.4 as follows:**

6.3 The comparison should be based on a relative difference of at least 25% in the energy value or nutrient content including sodium, except for micronutrients where a 10% difference in the NRV would be acceptable, between the compared foods and minimum absolute difference in the energy value or nutrient content equivalent to the figure defined as “low” or as a “source” in the Table to these Guidelines.

6.4 In addition to the conditions set out in Section 6.3, the content of trans fatty acids should not increase for foods carrying a comparison claim for decreased saturated fatty acids content.”

**Add a new section 6.5 as follows:**

6.5 The use of the word “light” or a synonymous claim should follow the criteria listed in Section 6.3 of these Guidelines and include an indication of the characteristics which make the food “light”.

**Insert a new section 7 as follows and renumber existing section 7 to 8.****“7. Non-Addition Claims****7.1 Non-Addition of Sugars**

Claims regarding the non-addition of sugars to a food may be made provided the following conditions are met.

(a) No sugars of any type have been added to the food (Examples: sucrose, glucose, honey, molasses, corn syrup, etc.);

(b) The food contains no ingredients that contain sugars as an ingredient (Examples: jams, jellies, sweetened chocolate, sweetened fruit pieces, etc.);

(c) The food contains no ingredients containing sugars that substitute for added sugars (Examples: non-reconstituted concentrated fruit juice, dried fruit paste, etc.); and

(d) The sugars content of the food itself has not been increased above the amount contributed by the ingredients by some other means (Example: the use of enzymes to hydrolyse starches to release sugars).

**7.2 [reserved]**

### 7.3 Additional Conditions

Additional conditions and/or disclaimer statements may be used with non-addition claims to assist consumer understanding of the claims within countries. Disclaimer statements should appear in close proximity to, on the same side and in the same prominence as the claim. These may be developed based on evidence of consumer use and understanding.”

**Proposed draft amendments to the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims  
(CAC/GL 23-1997)**

**At Step 5**

**Insert a new section 7.2 as follows:**

**7.2 Non-Addition of Sodium Salts**

Claims regarding the non-addition of sodium salts to a food, including “no added salt”, may be made provided the following conditions are met.\*

- (a) The food contains no added sodium salts (Examples: sodium chloride, sodium tripolyphosphate, etc.);
- (b) The food contains no ingredients that contain added sodium salts (Examples: Worcestershire sauce, pickles, pepperoni, soya sauce, etc.); and
- (c) The food contains no ingredients that contain sodium salts that are used to substitute for added salt (Examples: seaweed, depending on how it is used).

\*National authorities may permit the addition for technological purposes of sodium salts other than sodium chloride where such addition would not result in the food not meeting the conditions for “low in sodium” claims as described in the Table to these *Guidelines*.

## Appendix IV

**Proposed draft amendments to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985)****At step 8**

**Insert a new definition 2.4 as follows and renumber subsequent definitions:**

“2.4 **Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs)\*** are a set of numerical values that are based on scientific data for purposes of nutrition labelling and relevant claims. NRVs are based on levels of nutrients associated with nutrient requirements, or with the reduction in the risk of diet - related noncommunicable diseases.”

- See also the Annex for the General Principles for the Establishment of Nutrient Reference Values.

## Appendix V

**Proposed draft amendments to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985)****At Steps 5/8****Amend sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 to read as follows:**

“3.1.1 Nutrient declaration should be mandatory for all prepackaged foods for which nutrition or health claims, as defined in the *Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims* (CAC/GL 23-1997), are made.

3.1.2 Nutrient declaration should be mandatory for all other prepackaged foods except where national circumstances would not support such declarations. Certain foods may be exempted for example, on the basis of nutritional or dietary insignificance or small packaging.”



**APPENDIX VI**

**DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND  
MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS (N10-2006):  
(ETHYLENE)**

**At Step 8\***

**Annex 1 - Principles of Organic Production**

**C. HANDLING, STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING**

82. The integrity of the organic product must be maintained throughout the processing phase. This is achieved by the use of techniques appropriate to the specifics of the ingredients with careful processing methods limiting refining and the use of additives and processing aids. Ionizing radiation should not be used on organic products for the purpose of pest control, food preservation, elimination of pathogens or sanitation.

Ethylene may be used for ripening of kiwi fruit and bananas.

\* Confirmation of the current text without amendment.

**APPENDIX VII**

**PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING,  
LABELLING AND MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS:  
(N18-2011): Inclusion of new substances  
At Steps 5/8**

**Annex 2, Table 2**

Plant

“Spinosad”; “Spinosad should only be used where measures are taken to minimize the risk to non-target species and to minimize the risk of development of resistance.”

Mineral

“Potassium hydrogen carbonate”

“Copper octanoate” (to be included with other copper products and with the same conditions)

Other

“Ethylene”; “For degreening of citrus for fruit fly prevention and as a flowering agent for pineapples.”

## APPENDIX VIII

**STRUCTURED APPROACH FOR THE AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS*****Approach***

- A timely structured review process that conserves Committee resources.
- A two year cycle for proposals.
- The use for an Organic electronic working group (eWG) to evaluate the completeness of proposals and prioritization of suggested new work for the Committee.
- Development and use of a standard template for application and collection of comments.
- Chairpersonship of the eWG would rotate from country to country.

**Procedures for a Two Year Review Cycle for Proposals****Year one:**

- Proposals submitted to the Secretariat. The Committee will establish an eWG for submitted proposals.
- Proposals for new work should be submitted 60 days prior to the plenary, so that members might have ample time for review prior to the plenary.
- At the plenary in Year 1, the Committee would discuss basic sufficiency of the proposals. If the Committee reaches consensus that one or more proposals are sufficient, the Committee will establish an eWG and the proposals for new work under Annex 2 will go forward to the Commission for approval as a Step 1/3 document. If there is insufficient interest from members to undertake the work on a particular substance, the Member may submit the proposal for discussion again at the next cycle. The Committee could decide whether to have the eWG review substances that fall outside of Annex 2 at its discretion.
- Proposals for consideration may include environmental, socio-economic and/or trade implications and benefits to assist in prioritising their review.
- The review of a substance should confirm that it has been assessed as safe for use in food production, and whether its use is consistent with the requirements for inclusion of substances in Section 5 of the guidelines.

**In between year one and two**

- The eWG will undertake review of the assigned proposals and prepare a recommendation for presentation to the Committee in year two.
  - For Annex 2 revisions the eWG will review the information provided and provide a report as to whether the criteria in section 5.1 have been satisfied. The eWG may seek additional data as necessary for completion of proposals.

**Year two:**

The Committee discusses the recommendations of the eWG.

- For Annex 2 revisions, if the Committee agrees to approve the proposals, they would advance to Step 5/8 document.
- If no proposals for new work come forward then the eWG would not be constituted.