

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
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WORLD
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ORGANIZATION



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AGENDA ITEM NO.9

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
THIRTY-THIRD SESSION
KOTA KINABALU, MALAYSIA, MAY 9 – 13, 2005**

CONSIDERATION OF THE DEFINITION OF TRANS-FATTY ACIDS

COMMENTS FROM:

CANADA

CONSIDERATION OF THE DEFINITION OF TRANS-FATTY ACIDS

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS

CANADA:

Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) definition of trans fat:

“For the purpose of the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling and other related Codex Standards and Guidelines, trans fatty acids are defined as all the geometrical isomers of monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids having non-conjugated interrupted by at least one methylene group (-CH₂-CH₂-) carbon-carbon double bonds in the trans configuration.”

Canada supports the intent of the definition for trans fat as developed by the CCNFSDU, i.e., that it includes all trans fatty acids except those with a conjugated bond in the trans configuration. This is how trans fat is defined under Canadian regulations.

However, we consider the wording of the CCNFSDU definition not to be entirely accurate and clear and suggest the following modifications:

Suggested revision:

“For the purpose of the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling and other related Codex Standards and Guidelines, trans fatty acids are defined as all the **trans** geometrical isomers of monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids having **one or more** non-conjugated **carbon-carbon double bonds** interrupted by at least one methylene group (-CH₂-CH₂-) ~~carbon-carbon double bonds~~ in the trans configuration.”

Alternately, we could recommend wording similar to the Canadian definition which is very succinct but may not be sufficiently detailed for Codex:

“For the purpose of the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling and other related Codex Standards and Guidelines, trans fatty acids are defined as unsaturated fatty acids that contain one or more isolated or non-conjugated double bonds in a *trans*-configuration.”