

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

CX/FL 06/34/9-ADD.1

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
OTTAWA, CANADA, MAY 1 – 5, 2006**

**PROPOSED DRAFT DEFINITION OF TRANS-FATTY ACIDS
(CL 2005/51-FL)**

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

COMMENTS FROM:

**BRAZIL
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC)**

PROPOSED DRAFT DEFINITION OF TRANS-FATTY ACIDS (CL 2005/51-FL)**GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3****BRAZIL:**

Brazil appreciates the opportunity to present the following comments:

Brazil supports the inclusion of the trans-fatty acids definition in the Section on Definitions of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC GL 2-1985, Rev. 1-1993). This definition should not be included in the Section on Definitions of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985, Rev. 1-1991) since there are no nutrient definitions in this document. However, considering that the work approved by the 28th Session of the Commission established this inclusion in both documents, Brazil supports this recommendation

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC):

The European Community and its 25 Member States (ECMS) appreciate the opportunity to address the Codex Alimentarius Commission's request for comments on the amendment to the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (GSLPF)* and the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (GNL)* to include the definition of trans fatty acids.

The ECMS could accept the definition of trans fatty acids as amended by the 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling with the addition of a footnote. The definition proposed is a chemical definition which might not necessarily reflect the physiological effect of specific trans fatty acids, therefore, the ECMS propose to add a footnote at the end of the definition which would leave the possibility to take into account new scientific evidence on the impact on health of specific trans fatty acids:

“Codex Members may, for the purposes of nutrition labelling, review the inclusion of specific trans fatty acids (TFAs) in the definition of TFAs if new generally accepted scientific data demonstrates that their nutritional effects differ from those observed for TFAs in general.”

In addition, the ECMS note that the proposal for new work is that both the *GSLPF* and the *GNL* should be amended to include the definition of trans fatty acids. However, the ECMS are of the opinion that the inclusion of this definition in the *GNL* only might be sufficient as the *GSLPF* does not include any specific reference to individual nutrients nor any definitions for other nutrients that are already included in the *GNL*.