

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 3

CX/FL 06/34/3

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Thirty-fourth Session
Ottawa, Canada, 1 – 5 May 2006

CONSIDERATION OF LABELLING PROVISIONS IN DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS

A. *AD HOC* INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICES COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (ALINORM 05/28/39, Appendix II)

Section 5: Processing Aids

The Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, when endorsing provisions for processing aids, agreed to include sodium caseinate, potassium caseinate and isinglass in the list of processing aids in the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars with inclusion of the footnote “Use of these processing aids should take into account their allergenic potential. If there is any carry over of these processing aids into finished product, they are subject to ingredient declaration in accordance with Sections 4.2.1.4 and Section 4.2.4 of the of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.”

As processing aids are exempted from labelling declaration in the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, this additional labelling requirement needs to be further endorsed by the Committee on Food Labelling, as agreed by the 28th Session of the Commission (ALINORM 05/28/41, para. 64).¹

B. COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Draft Revised Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (at Step 8) (ALINORM 06/29/26, Appendix II)

8. LABELLING

8.1.1 The requirements of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985 (Rev. 1-1991), Codex Alimentarius Volume 1), the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985 (Rev. 1-1993) and the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997 (Rev. 2001) apply to this standard. With specific reference to section 7 of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods national jurisdictions may further restrict the use of pictorial devices.

Taking into account paragraph 1.4 of the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims, nutrition claims may be permitted under national legislation for the foods that are the subject of the standard provided that they have been demonstrated in rigorous studies with adequate scientific standards.

¹ Section 4.2.4.2 of the *General Standard*:

A food additive carried over into foods at a level less than that required to achieve a technological function, and processing aids, are exempted from declaration in the list of ingredients. The exemption does not apply to food additives and processing aids listed in section 4.2.1.4.

8.1.2 Any indication required in the labelling should be made in the appropriate language(s) of the country in which the product is sold.

8.2 THE NAME OF THE FOOD

The name of the food shall be "Dry Cereal for Infants (and/or Young Children)", "Rusks for Infants (and/or Young Children)" or "Biscuits (or "Milk Biscuits") for Infants (and/or Young Children)" or "Pasta for Infants (and/or Young Children)", or any appropriate designation indicating the true nature of the food, in accordance with national legislation.

8.3 LIST OF INGREDIENTS

8.3.1 A complete list of ingredients shall be declared on the label in descending order of proportion except that in the case of added vitamins and minerals, these may be arranged as separate groups for vitamins and minerals, respectively, and within these groups the vitamins and minerals need not be listed in descending order of proportion.

8.3.2 The specific name shall be declared for ingredients and food additives. In addition, appropriate class names for these ingredients and additives may be included on the label.

8.4 DECLARATION OF NUTRITIVE VALUE

8.4.1 The declaration of nutrition information shall contain the following information which should be in the following order:

- (a) The energy value, expressed in kilocalories (kcal) and kilojoules (kJ), and the amount of protein, carbohydrate and fat expressed in grammes (g) per 100 g or 100 ml of the food as sold, and where appropriate, as per specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption;
- (b) The average amount of each vitamin and mineral for which specific levels are defined in section 3.6 and 3.7 expressed in numerical form per 100g or 100 ml of the food as sold and, where appropriate, as per specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption;
- (c) Any other nutritional information required by national legislation.

8.4.2 The labelling may bear the average amount of the vitamins and minerals when their declaration is not covered by the provisions of section 8.4.1 (b) expressed in numerical form per 100g or 100 ml of the product as sold and, where appropriate, per specified quantity of the food as suggested for consumption.

8.5 DATE MARKING AND STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

8.5.1 The date of minimum durability (preceded by the words "best before") shall be declared by the day, month and year in uncoded numerical sequence except that for products with a shelf-life of more than three months, the month and year will suffice. The month may be indicated by letters in those countries where such use will not confuse the consumer. In the case of products requiring a declaration of month and year only, and the shelf-life of the product is valid to the end of a given year, the expression "end (stated year)" may be used as an alternative.

8.5.2 In addition to the date, any special conditions for the storage of the food shall be indicated if the validity of the date depends thereon.

8.5.3 Where practicable, storage instructions shall be in close proximity to the date marking.

8.6 INFORMATION FOR UTILIZATION

8.6.1 Directions as to the preparation and use of the food, and its storage and keeping before and after the container has been opened, shall appear on the label and may also appear on the accompanying leaflet.

8.6.2 For products covered by 2.1.1, directions on the label shall state "Milk or formula but no water shall be used for dilution or mixing" or an equivalent statement.

8.6.3 When the product is composed of gluten-free ingredients and food additives, the label may show the statement "gluten-free".²

² Codex Standard for Gluten-Free Foods (118-1981 (under revision)).

8.6.4 The label shall indicate clearly from which age the product is recommended for use. This age shall not be less than six months for any product. In addition, the label shall include a statement indicating that the decision when precisely to begin complementary feeding, including any exception to six months of age, should be made in consultation with a health worker, based on the individual infant's specific growth and development needs. Additional requirements in this respect may be made in accordance with the legislation of the country in which the product is sold.

8.7 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The products covered by this standard are not breast-milk substitutes and shall not be presented as such.

NOTE

The 32nd Session of the CCFL (2004) agreed to refer back the second paragraph of section 8.1.1, sections 8.3.1, 8.4 and 8.6.3 to the CCNFSDU for further consideration and endorsed all other sections as proposed (ALINORM 04/27/22 para. 23).