

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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AGENDA ITEM NO. 4B

CX/FL 06/34/5

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

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

**GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND
MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS:
PROPOSED DRAFT REVISED ANNEX2: TABLE I (NATURAL SODIUM NITRATE)
(ALIMORM 05/28/22 – APPENDIX IV)**

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

COMMENTS FROM:

**BRAZIL
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

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GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

BRAZIL:

Brazil appreciates the opportunity to present the following comments:

Brazil is opposed to the inclusion of Natural Sodium Nitrate in Annex 2.

Justification: The Natural Sodium Nitrate is not consistent with the principles of organic agriculture since it has a high solubility and is a non-renewable resource. Furthermore, this substance may have a negative impact on the environment (contamination of ground water) and on human health (conversion of nitrate to nitrite and nitrosamines during consumption).

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:

The European Community has the following comments on Codex Circular Letter 2005/24/FL: Proposed Draft amendment to the Guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of organically produced foods: proposed draft revised Annex 2 – permitted substances: Table 1; (para. 37, Appendix IV of ALINORM/05/28/22):

- The European Community is opposed to the proposed inclusion of **Natural Sodium Nitrate (Chilean nitrate)** in table 1, as returned to step 3.
- The European Community considers this substance not to be consistent with the principles of organic agriculture and not essential for its intended use. Because of its high content of mineral nitrogen directly ready for uptake by the plant, it has not been allowed in organic farming in most regions of the world and its inclusion has not been supported by most members.
- The European Community proposes to close the discussion on this substance by concluding it will not be included in Table 1 of Annex 2 of the ‘Guidelines’.