



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Fortieth Session
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 15 - 18 May 2012

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 34th SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

1. Standards and Related Texts adopted by the Commission¹

The Commission adopted/ agreed the following:

- Revision of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning the list of nutrients that are always declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis (at step 8)
- Compilation of Codex Texts Relevant to Labelling of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology (CAC/GL 76-2011) (at steps 5/8)
- Annex to the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) on General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values of Vitamins and Minerals for the General Population (developed by CCNFSDU) (at step 8)

2. Standards and Related Texts adopted by the Commission at step 5²

- Proposed draft definition of Nutrient Reference Values

3. Elaboration of new standards and related texts³

The Commission approved the elaboration of the following new work by the CCFL:

- Inclusion of new substances into the Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods

4. Discontinuation of work⁴

- Discontinuation of the work on the draft amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Definitions

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

1. Executive Committee (CCEXEC)

1.1 *Critical review (CCEXEC65)*⁵

Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

The Committee encouraged the CCFL to set a target date for the completion of work on the Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for Organically Produced Foods: inclusion of ethylene for other uses (in addition to kiwifruit and bananas).

In reply to a question on the responsibility of the Committee on Food Labelling for organically produced foods, including organic aquaculture, it was recalled that this work had been initially allocated to the CCFL because it related to the definition of a claim, and that the Committee should consult with other technical

¹ REP11/CAC, paras 22 and 73 to 82 and Appendix III

² REP11/CAC, para. 116 and Appendix IV

³ REP11/CAC, para. 131 and Appendix VI

⁴ REP11/CAC, para. 149 and Appendix VII

⁵ REP11/EXEC, paras 26 - 27

committees when technical issues arise in its work. The Secretariat recalled that specialists of organic agriculture participated in the CCFL in their delegations and that technical issues were discussed in detail. In the case of organic aquaculture, it had been agreed to ask the advice of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, and the FAO Fisheries Department was involved in the development of the new section.

1.2 Critical review (CCEXEC66)⁶

The Committee noted that it was expected that the Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for Organically Produced Foods (inclusion of ethylene for other uses) would be completed by 2014.

2. Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU33)⁷

2.1 Definition of Nutrient Reference Values

CCNFSDU33 noted that the draft definition (adopted at Step 5 by the Commission) had been referred to the CCNFSDU for comments. It was proposed to reconsider the definition after finalization of the principles for NRVs-NCDs which were under development and the possible need to include a reference to the General Principles but the Committee did not propose specific amendments at this stage.

2.2 Proposal for new work on the definition of trans-fatty acids

CCNFSDU33 recalled that the Committee on Food Labelling, following the request of the delegation of Malaysia and further discussion, had invited the CCNFSDU to provide advice on the revision of the definition of trans-fatty acids. The Delegation of Malaysia informed the Committee that they wished to withdraw the request for the revision of the definition as the present definition was adequate. Other delegations expressed the view that there was not enough new scientific information to justify a revision of the definition. The Committee therefore agreed that there was no need to revise the definition at this stage.

The Delegation of Australia proposed that the definition of trans fatty acids should be reviewed to reconsider the exemption of conjugated fatty acids in view of new studies on the health effects of conjugated fatty acids. The Committee noted that this was a new issue and invited Australia to prepare a proposal for consideration of new work at the next session.

2.3 Proposed Draft Additional or Revised NRVs

CCNFSDU33 agreed to return the Proposed Draft NRVs in Appendix IV to ALINORM 10/33/26 for redrafting by a working group, circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at the next session.

2.4 Proposed Draft General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values for Nutrients Associated with Risk of Diet-Related Noncommunicable Diseases for General Population (NRVs-NCD)

CCNFSDU33 agreed to return the Proposed Draft General Principles, as amended at the present session, to Step 3 for comments, redrafting by a working group as indicated above, further comments and consideration at the next session.

2.5 Proposed Draft Nutrient Reference Values Associated with Risk of Diet-Related Noncommunicable Diseases for General Population (NRVs-NCD)

CCNFSDU33 agreed to advance the proposed draft nutrient reference values, 20 g for saturated fatty acid and 2000 mg for sodium, to Step 5/8 for adoption by the 35th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and inform them to CCFL.

For inclusion in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling

| Nutrient | NRV-NCD |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| saturated fatty acids | 20 g |
| sodium | 2000 mg |

⁶ REP12/EXEC1, para 15

⁷ REP12/NFSDU, paras 12 – 14, 38, 66 and Appendix V, 76 and Appendix III