

codex alimentarius commission E



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 9

**CX/NASWP 08/10/11 Add.2
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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA
AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC**

Tenth session

Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 28-31 October 2008

NUTRITIONAL ISSUES WITHIN THE REGION

Replies to CL 2008/12-NASWP, Part D of Cook Islands

(i) Nutritional issues within the country or region such as: obesity, nutritional profiles, and any public health-oriented actions taken including the use of nutritional labelling and claims

COOK ISLANDS

No nutritional surveys have been done since 1980's. NVD STEPS survey was conducted in 2004. Results show prevalence of overweight/obesity to be 88.5%. MOH Statistics report the prevalence of high blood pressure & diabetes to be 25.2%. Some teaching within community settings using food labels have been used to promote wise food choices. Difficulties are that a large proportion of our foods are imported and labels differ depending on country of origin. We hope the current food regulations once enacted by parliament will help. The issue of proposing regional standards for food labels was discussed in November 2007 at the FAO/WHO meeting on Food Safety in Manila. This would enable smaller Pacific island countries to state minimum requirements of food labels on foods imported into the Pacific.