

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 14

CX/NFSDU 00/14
March 2000

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Twenty-second Session

Berlin, Germany, 19-23 Juni 2000

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK:

**CONSIDERATION OF THE NECESSITY FOR REVIEW OF THE GENERAL
PRINCIPLES FOR THE ADDITION OF ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS TO FOODS
(CAC/GL 09-1987)**

- Government Comments -

Comments from:

NORWAY
UNITED KINGDOM

NORWAY

According to the opinion of Norwegian Food Control Authority, issues concerning the fortification of fruit and vegetable juices and other commodity standards, are already covered by the General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (CAC/GL 09-1987).

As far as we are aware, no CL proposing the revision of the General Principles has been issued. Should such a proposal be made, we would like the opportunity to comment.

UNITED KINGDOM

CL 1998/35 - NFSDU of October 1998 invited comments on, among other things, the need for a review of the General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (CAC/GL 09-1987) in order to address the issue of fortification in commodity standards.

This issue arose at the 21st session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses during the discussion on matters arising from other Codex Committees. In this context, it was noted that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables had requested guidance on how to deal with fortification issues in commodity standards (CX/NFSDU 98/2 Addendum refers). However, it is not clear whether this Committee was aware of the existence of the General Principles when it made its request, or what further guidance it considered was needed.

There are elements of the General Principles which we would like to be changed. In particular, we would like to see an acknowledgement of the fact that essential nutrients may be added to foods for reasons other than those currently set out in the General Principle. For example, we would like to see provision made for the addition of vitamins and minerals to foods at levels which do not pose a risk to health in order to satisfy consumer demand and allow for product innovation. However, we do not believe that it will be possible to reach a consensus on such a change. Nor do we think it appropriate to embark on a review of the General Principles without first having sought the views of Commodity Committees on whether the existing principles meet their needs.

We would suggest that before a decision on the need for a review is taken, the Commodity Committees (and in particular the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables) are reminded of the existence of the General Principles and are asked to say whether they consider there is any need for them to be reviewed. In our view, there is little point in embarking on a review in the absence of views of those on whose behalf it is being carried out.