

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 4c

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

24th Session
Arlington, VA (Washington DC metro area), U.S.A.,
15 – 20 September 2008

PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX GUIDELINES ON PACKING MEDIA FOR CANNED VEGETABLES

(At Step 3)

Governments and interested international organizations in observer status with Codex wishing to submit comments on this proposal, including possible economic implications, should do so in conformity with the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual) before **15 August 2008**. Comments should be addressed:

to:

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with copy to:

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INTRODUCTION

1. The 23rd Session of the Committee agreed to return the proposed draft Guidelines for Packing Media on Canned Vegetables to Step 3 for comments, redrafting by a Working Group led by France and further consideration by the next session of the Committee. The Working Group revised the Guidelines based on the comments submitted at the last Session and those presented in response to CL 2006/56-PFV and prepared a new version for additional comments and consideration by the next session of the Committee.
2. The main changes to the Guidelines are indicated below:
 - 2.1 In Section 3.2 “oil and tomato puree” are into brackets. These additions are not usually part of the packing media of canned vegetables therefore it is necessary to identify those canned vegetables using these products as packing media and whether they are subject to international trade.
 - 2.2 Some comments questioned the need for such Guidelines and suggested that specific provisions in this regard be included separately in the Annexes as required. Therefore, three proposals are submitted for comments:

- (a) The Guidelines remain as such;
- (b) The provisions of the Guidelines should be introduced in the body of the General Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables;
- (c) Specific provisions for packing media should be introduced in the Annexes when necessary.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

3. Codex members and observers are invited to send their comments on *the proposed draft Codex Guidelines on Packing Media for Canned Vegetables* (see Annex). In making comments, particular attention should be paid to the questions in paragraph 2.2 and those provisions in square brackets. The proposed draft Guidelines and the comments submitted at Step 3 will be examined at the 24th session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables.

PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX GUIDELINES ON PACKING MEDIA FOR CANNED VEGETABLES

1 SCOPE

The following Guidelines describe the composition and labelling requirements for packing media for use with canned vegetables.

2 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Canned vegetables in packing media

The product is packaged with a packing media listed in section 3.

2.2 Vacuum packaged canned vegetables

The product is packaged without packing media, or with a packing media that does not exceed 20% of the product's net weight and when the container is sealed in such conditions as to generate the following minimum internal pressure at 20°C:

- (a) of [500 millibars] for containers of a capacity of 2550 ml or less.
- (b) of [300 millibars] for containers of a capacity higher than 2550 ml.

3 PACKING MEDIA COMPOSITION

3.1 Basic ingredients

Water, and if necessary salt.

3.2 Other permitted ingredients¹

- (a) sugars and/or other foodstuffs with sweetening properties such as honey;
- (b) aromatics plants, spices or extracts thereof, seasoning;
- (c) vinegar;
- (d) regular or concentrated fruit juice;
- (e) [oil];
- (f) [tomato puree.]

These optional ingredients shall not alter in any way the flavour characteristic of the product.

4 LABELLING

4.1 If an added ingredient or any seasoning, as defined in Section 3.2, alters the flavour characteristic of the product, the name of the said ingredient shall be affixed to the commercial designation of the product or in close proximity.

4.2 The name of the product shall include the indication of the packing media as set out in Section 3. For canned vegetables packaged in accordance with Section 2.2 the words "vacuum packaged" shall be affixed to the commercial designation of the product or in close proximity.

¹ These ingredients are currently used in different canned vegetables. If other ingredients are necessary for certain canned vegetables they would be added into the specific annex of the relevant canned vegetable.