



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

#### Forty-ninth Session

#### MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

#### MATTERS REFERRED BY THE 47TH AND 48TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC47 AND CAC48) AND THE 86TH, 87TH AND 89TH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CCEXEC86, CCEXEC87 AND CCEXEC89)

#### Standards and related texts adopted by the Commission<sup>1</sup>

1. CAC47(2024) adopted at Step 8:
  - (i) revision to the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985): Provisions relevant to allergen labelling.
  - (ii) *Guidelines on the provision of food information for pre-packaged foods to be offered via e-commerce* (CXG 104-2024).
  - (iii) *Guidelines on the use of technology to provide food information in food labelling* (CXG 105-2024).
2. CAC47(2024) adopted the Annex to the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985): Guidelines on the use of precautionary allergen labelling at Step 5 with extension of the timeline for completion of work.

#### Standard for dried floral parts – dried saffron: country of harvest (COH) labelling<sup>2</sup>

3. CCFL48 endorsed provision 8.3.1 “country of origin shall be declared”, but was unable to reach consensus on provision 8.3.2, “country of harvest shall be declared” and referred this matter to CCEXEC87 and CAC47 for further consideration.
4. CAC47 established an EWG to prepare a report for consideration of CCFL49(2026) and invited CCFL49 to consider issues related to the use of country of origin (COO) in food labelling of spices and to propose options which recognize the concerns that had been expressed by Codex Members.
5. Regarding the publication of the standard, CAC47 agreed that the *Standard for dried floral parts – dried saffron* (CXS 351-2022) should be published with the title Section 8.3 “Country of Origin and Country of Harvest” and with the following associated text “to be developed” noting that CAC49(2026) may revisit this issue in the light of any advice it receives from CCFL49.
6. CAC47 held extensive discussion on inclusion of the provision “country of harvest - mandatory” and agreed established an EWG, reporting to CCFL, to provide potential options which recognize Members’ perspectives on the use of COH in addition to the mandatory declaration of Country of Origin (COO) in food labelling of spices, including saffron and vanilla; - review options for a definition for COH and consider how it differs from COO; and - consider whether any clarifications are needed to application of labelling provisions.
7. The report of the EWG will be published as CX/FL 26/49/2 Add.1 for discussion under item 2.1

#### Labelling of non-retail containers

<sup>1</sup> REP24/CAC paragraphs 132, 133 and Appendix II and III

<sup>2</sup> REP24/EXEC paragraphs 95, REP24/CAC paragraphs 182-196 (full discussion and decision)

8. CAC48 adopted the inclusion of the provisions on the labelling of non-retail containers in the *Regional Standard for canned humus with tehena* (Near East) (CXS 257R-2007), the *Regional Standard for canned foul medames* (Near East) (CXS 258R-2007), the *Regional Standard for tehena* (Near East) (CXS 259R-2007), the *Regional standard for harissa* (red hot pepper paste) (Near East) (CXS 308R-2011), the *Regional standard for halwa tehena* (Near East) (CXS 309R-2011), the *Regional standard for date paste* (Near East) (CXS 314R-2013).

#### Approval of new work<sup>3</sup>

9. CAC47 approved the new work on the guideline on the application of food labelling provisions in emergencies forwarded by CCFL48.

#### Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031<sup>4</sup>

10. CAC47 adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

11. CAC48 (2025) adopted the monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, as proposed by CCEXEC89 (2025), noting that it may be reviewed after two years when initial data is available and some experience has been gained on its use.

#### Guidelines for new work proposals<sup>5</sup>

12. CCEXEC87 (2024) welcomed the Codex Secretariat's plans to develop practical guidelines for Members on the development of new work proposals and proposed that:

- the guidelines should encourage development of group commodity standards; the drafting of commodity standards so as to facilitate future enlargement of their scope by adding similar products; and a review of standards that may have been developed by other organizations for commodities for which there is established international trade; and
- the Codex Secretariat engages with Members to build awareness of the development of these guidelines, and the Handbook on EWGs, and seek input on issues that Members would wish to see included in these guidelines.

#### Codex EWGs<sup>6</sup>

13. CAC47 welcomed the publication of the Codex electronic working group handbook and encouraged its use and noted the ongoing work on developing a practical guide on the preparation of new work proposals, noting the opportunities for Members to provide input.

14. CAC48 encouraged FAO, WHO and experienced Members to support mentorship mechanisms to assist more Members to take up leadership roles in working groups.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHERS**

#### **44th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS44)<sup>7</sup>**

##### Methods of analysis for precautionary allergen labelling

15. CCFL48 informed CCMAS of progress on the Guidelines on the use of precautionary allergen labelling (PAL) and encouraged CCMAS to provide advice on suitable methods of analysis.

16. CCMAS44(2025) re-established an EWG to develop a draft response to CCFL for consideration by CCMAS45 noting that the EWG would not address the question from CCFL48 regarding sampling plans.

#### **12th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee on Near East (CCNE12)<sup>8</sup>**

17. CCNE12(2025) amended the provisions for labelling of non-retain containers in the *Regional standard for doogh* (Near East) (CXS 332R-2018) and the *Regional standard for mixed zaatar* (Near East) (CXS 341R-2020) to align with the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021).

#### **8th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8)<sup>9</sup>**

##### Observations on the use of the term "COH" in the labelling of spices and culinary herbs

<sup>3</sup> REP24/CAC paragraph 169i and Appendix V

<sup>4</sup> REP24/CAC, paragraph 216 and Appendix IX

<sup>5</sup> REP24/EXEC2 paragraph 82

<sup>6</sup> REP24/CAC, paragraph 22 (ii) and (iii); <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3481en>, REP25/CAC paragraph 17(iii)

<sup>7</sup> REP25/MAS paragraphs 127, 128

<sup>8</sup> REP25/NE paragraph 35, Appendix III part A and B

<sup>9</sup> REP25/SCH paragraph 26

18. CCSC8(2025) discussed the use of the term “COH” in the labelling of spices and culinary herbs, following the conclusion of CAC47, which requested CCSC8 to consider responses to CL 2025/07-FL seeking potential solutions regarding the use of the term “COH” and to provide its observations to CCFL49.

19. CCSC8 requested CCFL49 to consider:

- (i) clarifying subsection 4.5.2 of *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985), specifically with respect to “change the nature of the food” and/or to consider the possibility to further define/refine this subsection and specifically define “change the nature of the food” which qualified for the change in COO for the purposes of food labelling; or provide guidance on the application of subsection 4.5.2.
- (ii) providing additional guidance by defining COO and COH.

#### **55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH55)<sup>10</sup>**

20. CCFH55(2025) agreed to forward the consequential amendments to *Code of practice on food allergen management for food business operators* (CXC 80-2020) to align with the CXS 1-1985 for adoption by CAC49, noting that a discussion paper and a project document for the revision of CXC 80-2020 will be prepared for consideration at CCFH56 upon completion of the work on precautionary allergen labelling (PAL) by CCFL.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

21. CCFL49 is invited to:

- (i) note the information provided above; and
- (ii) consider request from CCSC8 regarding the use of the term “COH” in the labelling of spices and culinary herbs (paragraph 3-7) under agenda item 2.1, the use of “country of harvest” in addition to the mandatory declaration of country of origin in food labelling of spices.

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<sup>10</sup> REP26/FH paragraph 12 and Appendix II