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ALINORM 68/22
June 1967

JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Rome, 19 February - 1 March 1968

REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION
of the
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Ottawa, Canada
26-30 June 1967

JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

THIRD SESSION

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1. The Third Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, under the Chairmanship of the Government of Canada, was held in Ottawa, Canada, 26-30 June, 1967. The Session was opened by Mr. S.B. Williams, Deputy Minister of Agriculture. Mr. H.V. Dempsey, Director, Inspection Service, Department of Fisheries, was the Chairman of the Session. Representatives from 22 countries were present: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America. Observers were present from the following organizations: International Federation of Margarine Associations, International Organization of Consumers' Unions, and The Food and Drug Law Institute (Appendix I which contains the List of Participants has been omitted)

2. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda with a slight rearrangement of the items of business.

General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Step 4 of the Procedure)

3. The Committee had before it government comments at Step 3 of the Codex Alimentarius Commission's Procedure for the Elaboration of Standards on the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. After a full discussion of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods and government comments, it was agreed to make a number of changes to it before submission to the Commission at Step 5. The revised General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods is contained in Appendix II.

Purpose of Food Labelling

4. The Committee recognized that paragraph 1 of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods entitled "Purpose" should not be considered as part of the Standard.

Definition of Terms

5. The Committee agreed that the section of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods dealing with definition of terms should be introduced by the statement "For the purposes of this Standard."

"Label" and "Labelling"

6. After considering proposals of the Delegate of Poland for a revision of the definitions for "label" and "labelling," the Committee decided to leave those definitions unchanged in the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.

7. The Delegate of Denmark suggested that the definition of labelling might include advertising. The Committee recognized that advertising did not come within its present Terms of Reference, but agreed to consider at its next meeting whether a recommendation should be made to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for its Terms of Reference to be amended in this respect.

Ingredient

8. The Delegates of Poland and Switzerland were of the opinion that there should be a definition of the term "food additive" in the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods in order to make a distinction between food additives and ingredients. Other delegations considered that it was not necessary to have a specific definition of "food additives" as the definition of "ingredient" already includes food additives, and moreover, there were no specific references to food additives in the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. The Committee agreed to leave unchanged the definition of "ingredient."

Name of the Food

9. A number of delegations considered that this section of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods was insufficiently clear as to the circumstances under which "coined or fanciful names" might be used in place of a long or complicated appropriate descriptive name, and expressed concern that unqualified use of a "coined" or "fanciful" name might not be informative to the consumer. It was agreed by the Committee that when coined or fanciful names were used they should be accompanied by an appropriate descriptive term unless the nature of the food was obvious to the consumer. The Committee amended this section of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods accordingly. The Delegate of Poland objected to this part of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods as being unduly complicated.

List of Ingredients

10. With regard to the question of the listing of ingredients on the label in descending order of proportion, the Committee considered, at some length, whether this should apply to the final product or to the product at the time of manufacture. The Committee agreed in general that consumers would normally expect to find the ingredients as declared on the label in descending order of proportion to apply to the final product.

It was recognized, however, that in some instances the order of proportion declared on the label would have to apply to the amounts added at the time of manufacture because of changes during processing and storage. In view of this, the Committee decided to amend the statement contained in the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods dealing with this matter by deleting the expression "in which they are present in the final product." The Delegate of the Netherlands, however, expressed the view that this statement should remain in the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods because it is the final product which is used by the consumer and which is examined by the enforcement agency. The Delegate of the Netherlands also stated that, in his opinion, where a national or regional standard for a food existed, such a food should not necessarily be required to carry a list of ingredients.

The Delegate of Switzerland drew the attention of the Committee to the possibility of misleading the consumer if some mention of the quantity for a given ingredient of particular value or importance was not required before permitting its mention in the list of ingredients.

Consideration of Foods to be Exempt from Ingredient Listing

11. At the Second Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 66/22, paragraph 13), it was agreed that Governments should be invited to suggest foods for which a list of ingredients on the label might not be required. As a result, the Committee had before it a number of suggestions of foods which might be exempted from an ingredient listing. The Committee concluded, however, that it did not have sufficient information before it to come to a satisfactory decision.

12. The Committee recommended that Governments again be asked to suggest foods which, in their opinion, need not be required to carry a list of ingredients on the label. In addition to listing such foods, Governments should indicate the reasons for exempting these foods from ingredient listing. It was further agreed that the attention of Governments be drawn to the public health risks, such as allergies, involved in exempting foods from the listing of ingredients, and that Governments be asked to comment on this aspect as well.

13. In addition, the Committee was advised that the FAO Secretariat would prepare a paper, for the next meeting of this Committee, dealing with national legislation regarding the exemption of foods from ingredient listing. The WHO Secretariat was asked to seek expert advice on the potential health hazards that might be involved in the omission of listing of ingredients on prepackaged foods, especially in relation to allergic reactions.

Declaration of the Amount or Percentage of Ingredients

14. The Committee concluded that, as a general rule, it should not be

necessary to declare the ingredients in amounts or percentages. The Committee did feel, however, that in some instances, such as those involving ingredients or mixtures of ingredients of particular importance to the consumer for monetary or other reasons, it might be desirable to indicate the percentages of some or all of the ingredients, particularly if the absence of such a declaration would lead to fraud or deception.

Declaration of Components of Ingredients

15. The Committee decided that it would be desirable to obtain more information regarding the listing of components of ingredients on food labels. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that Governments should again be invited to comment on the question of the listing of components of ingredients. At the same time, Governments should indicate the reasons behind their suggestions.

Class Names

16. The Committee considered the relevant provisions of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods and had before it the Report of the Second Session of the Food Labelling Committee (ALINORM 66/22) in which a number of examples of acceptable class names were listed. In addition, a number of Governments had submitted their views on this matter.

17. After considerable discussion, the Committee decided that the only class names which were acceptable to the Committee at this time were starch, herbs, spices, vegetable gums, flavours and colours. The Committee agreed to request the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils to propose class names for fats and oils when used as ingredients in foods. The Committee also agreed to consider other class names when more information became available, and that when a class name was agreed upon for substances which were subject to endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives or other general Codex Committees, only those ingredients listed within the defined class could be declared in this way.

18. The Delegate of Japan asked that the class names being considered by the Codex Committee on Food Additives include the names "anti-crystallize agents" and "chemical seasonings."

19. Following a discussion of the use of the terms "natural" and "artificial," the Committee decided to invite the Codex Committee on Food Additives to express its views as to the possibility of making a scientific distinction between "natural" and "artificial" colours and flavours.

Declaration of Added Water

20. The Committee agreed to the wording of the statement contained in the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods regarding the declaration of added water.

Net Contents

21. The Committee had before it a statement dealing with net contents as found in the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods prepared at the Second Meeting of this Committee. Some discussion took place regarding the net content declaration on foods where unavoidable moisture changes occur. The Committee concluded that, in general, the declared net content be present at the time of retail sale. The Committee recognized, however, that there were a number of products for which exceptions may be required. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Codex Commodity Committees be invited to suggest those foods which might vary in weight from that declared on the label at their time of retail sale because of the nature of the product.

22. The Delegate of Japan expressed the view that the net content to be declared on the label of frozen foods covered with a glaze, should be the net weight of the frozen food exclusive of the glaze. The Committee agreed with this point of view. The Committee further agreed to draw this matter to the attention of the appropriate Codex Commodity Committees.

23. The Committee also considered the question of a "drained weight" declaration on certain food items. The Committee noted that Codex Commodity Committees are already giving consideration to the question of minimum drained weight requirements in the preparation of certain commodity standards. The Delegates of Denmark and Poland expressed the view that drained weight should be declared on all food products packed in liquid media.

24. In reply to the question raised by the Delegate of Denmark regarding the method to be used in determining the net content, it was pointed out that this matter was being considered by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

25. The Committee noted the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Commission that, in all Codex Standards, where the metric system is used the measurements should be in S.I. Units.

Name and Address

26. Some delegations questioned the extent to which the address of the party responsible for the product should be declared on the label. The Committee considered that this section of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods did not require amendment and it would be necessary to have an address on the label which would be sufficiently complete to enable anyone to contact the party named.

Country of Origin

27. The Committee agreed that all prepackaged foods should bear a state-

ment of the country of origin except when manufactured and sold within the country of origin. When processing sufficient to change the nature of a food is performed in a second country, then the name of the country in which the processing is performed would be considered the country of origin. The Committee amended the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods accordingly.

28. The Delegate of the Netherlands was of the view that the original wording of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods did not require amendment.

Foods for Special Dietary Purposes

29. The Committee agreed to retain the present text contained in the Guidelines dealing with special dietary foods. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Dietetic Foods would be submitting labelling proposals for endorsement by the Labelling Committee. Among many statements of detail made by delegations, the Delegate of Poland was of the opinion that quantities of added or eliminated substances which result in a special value of the food should also be declared. The Labelling Committee recommended that the Codex Committee on Dietetic Foods should pay particular attention in its proposals to the labelling of those special dietary foods where the addition or removal of substances resulted in the food having special properties. Such properties should be declared in order to inform the consumer of the true nature of the food.

Presentation of Mandatory Information

30. Considerable discussion took place regarding the statement contained in the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods dealing with the presentation of mandatory information. The Committee agreed that a sentence should be added to this statement to the effect that when a container is covered with a wrapper, the wrapper should carry the necessary information, or the label on the container should be readily legible through the outer wrapper or not obscured by it.

Optional Labelling

31. The Committee also agreed that any information or pictorial device may be used on a label provided that it is not in conflict with the mandatory requirements nor would mislead or deceive the consumer in any way. The Committee further agreed that no food should be described on a label by words, pictorial or other devices which are suggestive of another product with which the food might be confused.

Size of Type

32. Some delegations suggested that a minimum size of type should be

required for the presentation of the mandatory information. Other delegations, however, were of the opinion that if the information on a label were presented in a clear, prominent and readily legible manner, it should not be necessary to specify a minimum size of type.

33. Since some countries have laws dealing with this subject, the Committee asked that the FAO Secretariat prepare a paper on "size of type for mandatory information" after consulting the legislation of a number of countries on this matter.

Label Statements for Foods having Special Requirements for Storage and Preparation

34. While some delegations considered that the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods should contain a statement dealing with the labelling aspects of foods needing special handling, storage and preparation requirements, the Committee decided that such a statement should not be written into the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods at this time because individual products need special consideration.

35. The Committee agreed to bring to the attention of the Codex Commodity Committees the need to consider the special labelling for those foods which require special handling, storage, transport or preparation.

Date Marking

36. The Committee had before it a document prepared by the International Organization of Consumers' Unions recommending that the expiry date and date of manufacture be marked on certain categories of food. Some delegations supported this recommendation. The Delegate of Japan informed the Committee that in his country certain foods were required to bear the date of manufacture and expressed the view that this requirement should be adopted in Codex Standards. Other delegations, however, expressed the view that for many foods, date marking, whether expiry date or date of manufacture, might prove to be a disadvantage to the consumer as it might lead to a false sense of security or to higher prices. These delegations also considered that there were factors, other than perishability and storage life, which needed to be taken into consideration in connection with date marking.

37. The Committee recommended that Codex Commodity Committees, when elaborating standards for perishable foods, should consider, in the interests of protection of the consumer, the need for such foods to bear an expiry date after which time the food should not be consumed. The Committee stressed the need for sound scientific justifications for the use of expiry dates.

Disposition of General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods

38. The Committee agreed that the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods should go to the Commission at Step 5.

Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products

39. The Committee considered the labelling matters referred to it by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (ALINORM 66/18). With regard to the Marking and Labelling statements to be found in the Provisional Standard on Frozen Fillets of Cod and Haddock, the Committee decided that these statements were generally acceptable. The Committee did wish, however, to draw the attention of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products to the facts (i) that if glaze were present on the product, then the net weight declaration should be exclusive of the weight of the glaze, and (ii) that coding which would include the lot and day, as well as the month and year, should be encouraged.

40. The Committee noted that in the Proposed Draft Provisional Standards for fish products and in similar standards for other foods, no distinction was made between prepackaged foods and bulk products which may never appear in the retail trade. The Committee agreed that the Codex Commodity Committees should be invited to comment on need for such a distinction. The problem of labelling bulk products might require consideration by the Labelling Committee at a future meeting. The Committee further noted that the present title of the labelling requirement reads "General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods," which automatically excluded bulk foods from its provision.

41. With regard to the Marking and Labelling matters contained in the Proposed Standard for Frozen Guttled Pacific Salmon, the Committee decided to suggest to the Fish and Fishery Products Committee that it might wish to qualify the expression "net weight of contents" by the words "exclusive of glaze" if the product contains glaze.

42. The Committee also wished to draw the attention of the Fish and Fishery Products Committee to the fact that there was no reference to date marking or coding in the Frozen Salmon Standard. The Committee felt that such a reference should appear, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 39, item (ii), above.

43. With regard to the Provisional Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon, the Committee decided that the substance of the Marking and Labelling requirements was satisfactory, but that the layout of this information should be in conformity with the Codex format.

Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Quick (Deep) Frozen Foods

44. The Committee examined the labelling matters of the General

Standard for Frozen Foods, and agreed that the substance of this Standard was satisfactory, noting the provision that special labelling requirements for the storage, handling and preparation of frozen products should be inserted in frozen food standards.

45. The Committee considered the labelling requirements for strawberries and quick (deep) frozen peas and made the following comments:

Strawberries. There should be a clearer definition of "free-flowing" and a clearer indication of what was involved in the labelling provision on "size-grading."

Quick (Deep) Frozen Peas. There should be a clearer definition of "seasoning" and the nomenclature which is to be employed on the label in respect of Quick (Deep) Frozen Peas should be stated clearly in the English text in accordance with the common practice in English-speaking countries.

46. The Committee further agreed that the labelling provisions of these standards should be redrafted in accordance with the Codex format.

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils

47. In considering the labelling requirements appearing in the General Standards for Edible Oils and Fats Not Covered by Individual Codex Standards, Appendix II, Codex/Fats and Oils/Report IV, the Committee agreed that paragraph 5.2 should be reworded to make it clear that names such as "edible oil" and "salad oil" should not mislead the consumer.

48. The Delegate of France stated that, in his view, the term "salad oil" should be rejected as it is applied to certain mixtures of oils. Even where the best oils are used, the term "salad oil" seems to indicate that there is a superior quality to a mixture of oils that are of varied composition and not subject to any individual standard. The Delegate of France considered that the appropriate term to be used for such oils would be "edible oils" or "frying oils."

49. In view of the comments by the Delegate of France, the Delegate of the United States expressed the opinion that an oil or mixture of oils suitable for and intended for use in the preparation of salads may properly be designated as "Salad Oil" with an appropriate label declaration of the name(s) of the oil(s) present in the product.

50. The Committee was in general agreement with the principle of paragraph 5.3 (Codex/Fats and Oils/Report IV, Appendix II, page 23), but requested that the Fats and Oils Committee consider whether it was necessary to reword this paragraph to indicate clearly what processes were envisaged. The Committee also agreed to ask the Fats and Oils Committee to consider whether it was necessary to reword paragraph 5.4 so that the designations "virgin fat" or "virgin oil" would not apply to mixtures.

51. The Committee endorsed the labelling requirements appearing in the Standards, Appendices III to XIV, for soya bean, arachis, cottonseed, sunflower, rapeseed, maize, sesame seed and safflower seed oils and for lard, rendered pork fat, premier jus and edible tallow.

Margarine

52. The Committee considered the labelling requirements contained in the Proposed Provisional Standard for Margarine at Step 8 as contained in Appendix XIX to the Report of the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils. Following a decision to delete paragraph 7.3, the Committee endorsed the remaining labelling provisions of the Standard. The deleted section read as follows: "No reference shall be made to the presence of milk fat or butter in margarine other than a statement of the proportion of milk fat or butter present when this proportion is substantial [10% of total fat content or more]."

53. Some delegations opposed the deletion of this paragraph and took the view that, since the Standard permitted the addition of butter to margarine and as there was a possibility that the consumer could be misled about the nature of the product by certain references to the presence of butter in margarine, a specific provision controlling such references was essential.

Codex Committee on Sugars

54. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions in the Standards for Glucose Syrup, Dried Glucose Syrup, Dextrose Monohydrate, Dextrose Anhydrous, Lactose and Soft Sugars (Appendices to Codex/Sugars/Report IV). The Committee had no objection to the format by which the types of white sugar were differentiated in the labelling provisions in the Standard for White Sugar. The first two sections of the Standard for Powdered Sugar were endorsed by the Committee but it considered that paragraph 3 be deleted in view of the fact that anticaking agents would appear on the label in the list of ingredients. The Committee suggested that the Codex Committee on Sugars consider whether it was necessary to require a special declaration of an anticaking agent in addition to listing it among the ingredients.

Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate

55. The Committee considered the labelling matters contained in the Report of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate (ALINORM 68/10).

56. The Committee supported the suggestion of a number of delegations at the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate that the presence of alkalizing agents be declared in appropriate manner on the label. The Delegate of Switzerland, however, expressed the view that, in his opinion, such a declaration was not required.

57. The Committee noted the proposed labelling requirements for cocoa butter but decided to make no comment pending receipt of labelling requirements for the other products.

58. With regard to the Standard for Sweetened Cocoa Powder, the Committee recommended that the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate be asked to indicate more clearly the names to be used on the labels of this product.

59. With regard to the other Standards, the Labelling Committee understood that the Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate would be rewriting these Standards in the light of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods.

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

60. The Committee examined the labelling provisions in the Standards for Canned Tomatoes, Canned Green Beans and Waxed Beans, Canned Applesauce, Canned Peaches, Canned Grapefruit and Canned Corn, and endorsed the labelling requirement in all the Standards which were ready for consideration by the Commission at Step 8. In endorsing these labelling provisions, the Committee commented as follows:

Canned Tomatoes. In connection with canned tomatoes, the delegation of the United States was of the opinion that (a) diced tomatoes would probably not meet the drained weight requirement of 50%; (b) the statement on type of pack, such as solid pack, should be mandatory, and (c) when residual material has been used as the packing medium, this should be a mandatory declaration.

Canned Applesauce. In the case of canned applesauce, the Committee was of the opinion that paragraph 7.2, relative to colouring matter, was not precise enough. The delegation of the United States agreed to consider this point and to recommend a new wording when this Standard is considered at the next session of the Codex Commission.

Canned Corn. Concerning the Standard for Canned Corn, the delegation of the United States expressed the opinion that the colour designation "yellow" or "golden" should appear as a mandatory part of the labelling requirements when appropriate.

61. In connection with all the size requirements described in the labelling provisions of these Standards, the Committee agreed that the declaration of the measurement in inches should be permitted as an alternative to the declaration of size measurement in millimetres when the measurement in inches is used in the importing country.

62. The Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the Standard for Canned Asparagus. The Committee was also of the opinion that the provision on labelling in the Standard for Canned Mushrooms was satisfactory.

Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on the Standardization of Fruit Juices

63. The Committee decided to refer the labelling sections of the Standards on Fruit Juices back to the Joint Group for redrafting according to the Codex format. With regard to the specific question of the appropriate manner in which to declare ascorbic acid when used as an antioxidant, the Committee agreed that under these circumstances it should be referred to as "ascorbic acid" and not as "vitamin C."

Codex Committee on Dietetic Foods

64. In view of the fact that the definition of dietetic foods upon which the labelling requirements depend had been questioned by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Nutrition, and that the Guidelines were still at an early stage of development, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item.

Date and Place of Next Meeting

65. The Committee considered a possible date for the next meeting in the light of the prospective meeting of the Commission in February, 1968, and noted that if the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods were to be considered at the meeting next year after having been sent out to Governments for comments, the meeting might be held in July. One delegation pointed out that it might be possible to hold a meeting in April, 1968, in conjunction with Codex meetings in Washington, if the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods were not to be considered, but that other matters might be taken up at that time. These proposals were only tentative and would need to be considered in the light of the schedule of meetings of all Codex Committees during 1968.

APPENDIX IIJOINT FAO/WHO ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSIONGENERAL STANDARD FOR LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOODSDefinition of Terms

1. For the purpose of this Standard:
 - (a) "label" includes any tag, brand, mark, pictorial or other descriptive matter, written, printed, stencilled, marked, embossed or impressed on, or attached to, a container of food;
 - (b) "labelling" includes the label and any written, printed or graphic matter relating to and accompanying the food;
 - (c) "container" means any form of packaging of food for sale as a single item, whether by completely or partially enclosing the food, and includes wrappers and confining bands;
 - (d) "prepackaged" means packaged or made up in advance, ready for retail sale in a container;
 - (e) "ingredient" means any substance used in the manufacture or preparation of a food and present in the final product.

Labelling of Prepackaged Foods

2. The labels of all prepackaged food shall bear the information required by sections 2.1 to 2.7 below, as applicable to the food being labelled, except to the extent otherwise expressly provided in a specific Codex Standard.

2.1 The name of the food:

The name should indicate the true nature of the food and normally be specific and not generic. Where a name or names have been established for a food in a Codex Standard, at least one of these names shall be used. In other cases, a common or usual name shall be used, if one exists. Where no common name exists, an appropriate descriptive name should be used. A "coined" or "fanciful" name, however, may be used provided it is not misleading and is accompanied by an appropriately descriptive term, unless the nature of the food is obvious without such descriptive term.

2.2 List of ingredients:

- (i) A complete list of ingredients shall be declared on the label in descending order of proportion, except
 - (a) as otherwise provided in a Codex Standard;
 - (b) in the case of other foods listed by the Commission where an exemption from a declaration of ingredients would not be prejudicial to the interests of the consumer, or
 - (c) in the case of dehydrated foods which are intended to be reconstituted by the addition of water, the ingredients may be listed in order of proportion in the reconstituted product, provided the list of ingredients is headed by a statement such as "ingredients when reconstituted."
- (ii) Where an ingredient of a food has more than one component, the names of the components shall be specified, except
 - (a) where the ingredient is a product for which a Codex Standard has been established, or
 - (b) in the case of other ingredients, where such ingredients are listed by the Commission.
- (iii) A specific name shall be used for the declaration of ingredients except that the class titles listed by the Commission may be used to describe a particular group of ingredients in a compound food. The following is a partial list of such class names: starch, herbs, spices, vegetable gums, colours and flavours.
- (iv) Added water shall be declared in the list of ingredients if such a declaration would result in a better understanding by the consumer of the product's composition, except when the water forms part of an ingredient such as brine, syrup or broth used in a compound food.

2.3 Net contents:

A correct declaration of the net contents in either

the metric (S.I. Units) or avoirdupois, or both, systems of measurements as required by the country in which the food is sold must be made by volume for liquid foods, by weight for solids, by either weight or volume for semi-solid or viscous foods, and by count for those foods usually sold by number. Foods packed in a liquid medium normally discarded before consumption should carry a declaration of the drained weight of the food.

2.4 Name and address:

The name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor of the food shall be declared.

2.5 Country of origin:

The country of origin of a food shall be declared except that foods sold within the country of origin need not declare the country of origin. When a food undergoes processing in a second country which changes its nature, the country in which the processing is performed shall be considered to be the country of origin for the purposes of labelling.

2.6 Irradiated foods:

Foods which have been treated with ionizing radiation shall be so designated.

2.7 Foods for special dietary purposes:

In the case of a food offered for a special dietary purpose, including foods for which claims for vitamin or mineral content are made, the facts required to demonstrate the suitability of the food for the purpose shall be included on the label.

2.8 Presentation of mandatory information:

Statements required to appear on the label by virtue of this Standard or any other Codex Standard shall be clear, prominent and readily legible by the consumer under normal conditions of purchase and use. Such information shall not be obscured by designs or by other written, printed or graphic matter and shall be in contrasting colour to that of the background. Where the container is covered by a wrapper, the wrapper should carry the necessary information, or the label on the container should be readily legible

through the outer wrapper or not obscured by it. In general, the name and net contents of the food shall appear on that portion of the label normally intended to be presented to the consumer at the time of sale.

2.9 Language:

The language used for the declaration of the statements referred to in paragraph 2.8 should be a language acceptable to the country in which the food is intended for sale. If the language on the original label is not acceptable, a supplementary label containing the mandatory information in an acceptable language may be used instead of relabelling.

2.10 Grade designations:

If grade designations are used, they should be readily understandable, of uniform nomenclature and not be misleading or deceptive in any way.

2.11 Labelling including optional labelling:

Any information or pictorial device may be displayed in labelling provided that it is not in conflict with the mandatory requirement nor would mislead or deceive the consumer in any way whatsoever in respect of the food.

No food shall be described or presented on any label or in any labelling by words, pictorial or other devices which refer to or are suggestive of, either directly or indirectly, of any other product with which such food might be confused, or in such a manner as to lead the purchaser or consumer to suppose that the food is or is connected with such other product.

2.12 Additional requirements for specific foods:

Nothing in this Standard shall preclude the adoption of additional provisions in a Codex Standard, in respect of labelling, where the circumstances of a particular food would justify their incorporation in that Standard.