

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
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Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 6

FL49/CRD06

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-ninth Session

Ottawa, Canada

11 - 15 May 2026

AMENDMENTS TO THE *GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS* (CXS 1- 1985): PROPOSED PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO JOINT PRESENTATION AND MULTIPACK FORMATS

(Prepared by Colombia (Electronic Working Group Chair))

Colombia, Canada, India and Jamaica, as chair and co-chairs of the EWG, have revised the proposed draft text below upon consideration of comments and recommendations received in response to CL 2026/08-FL as compiled in CX/FL 26/49/6 Add.1. The amendments are outlined directly in the text boxes which include the rationale for the changes made. The Committee is invited to consider the revised Guidelines as presented in this CRD.

NOTE: Text in **red bold** and ~~strikeout~~ shows proposed amendments to Appendix I of CX/FL 26/49/6 in response to comments from CX/FL 26/49/6 Add.1.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS
(CXS 1- 1985): PROPOSED PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO JOINT PRESENTATION AND MULTIPACK
FORMATS**

(STEP 4)

(Proposed new text to CXS 1-1985 is indicated in **bold and underline**)

4.2 *List of Ingredient*

NEW Text to appear after existing text in 4.2.1:

4.2.1 (bis) For pre-packaged foods subject to section 8.1.3.1, either separate lists of ingredients for each type of individually packaged food that makes up the container, or a combined list of ingredients shall be declared, as appropriate to the nature of the food and ~~such as~~ whether the individually packaged foods are intended to be consumed separately or together.

Proposed change: Section 4.2.1 (bis) is revised as follows:

4.2.1 (bis) For pre-packaged foods subject to section 8.1.3.1, either separate lists of ingredients for each type of individually packaged food that makes up the container, or a combined list of ingredients shall be declared, as appropriate to the nature of the food and ~~such as~~ whether the individually packaged foods are intended to be consumed separately or together.

Rationale: There was support for the intent of Section 4.2.1(bis) from most members in response to CL 2026/08-FL, which provides flexibility in how ingredient lists are declared while also providing guidance on doing so in a way that is most meaningful to consumers. However, a comment was received indicating that the second part of the sentence introduces the implication that this should be different depending on how the product is consumed and also the nature of the food. The proposed changes clarify that whether the individually packaged foods are intended to be consumed separately or together is part of the nature of the food that will inform the appropriate type of list of ingredients to use, as opposed to the nature and intended consumption being separate things.

4.3 *Net contents and drained weight*

4.3.4 For pre-packaged foods that are subject to section 8.1.3.1 and intended to be consumed separately, the net contents shall be declared by indicating:

- **the total net contents of the pre-packaged food sold as a single unit; and/or**
- **the number of individually pre-packaged foods per type and their respective net contents, either on the outer container or on the individually packaged foods that make up the container, if they can easily be counted and their net contents per type are clearly discernible and legible**

4.7 *Date marking and storage instructions*

4.7.1 If not otherwise determined in an individual Codex standard, the following date marking shall apply, unless Section 4.7.1 (vii) applies:

4.7.1 (vi) bis: For pre-packaged foods subject to section 8.1.3.1, the best-before date, best quality-before date, use-by date, or expiration date shall be ~~which is~~ declared as ~~on the outer packaging, shall correspond to~~ the earliest date of the individually packaged foods that make up the container ~~(if they differ) when these differ~~. If the inner units ~~individually packaged foods~~ have more than one type of date marking, the earliest date and the earliest use of the foods that fall under section 4.7.1(i) must be declared.

Proposed change: Section 4.7.1 is revised as follows:

4.7.1 (vi) bis: For pre-packaged foods subject to section 8.1.3.1, the best-before date, best quality-before date, use-by date, or expiration date ~~shall be~~ **which is declared as on the outer packaging, shall correspond to** the earliest date of the individually packaged foods that make up the container ~~(if they differ) when these differ~~. If the ~~inner units~~ **individually packaged foods** have more than one type of date **marking**, the earliest date ~~and the earliest use of the foods that fall under section 4.7.1(i) must be declared~~.

Rationale: While many members supported section 4.7.1 (vi)bis, there were also comments in response to CL 2026/08-FL indicating that the enumeration of the different types of date marking (e.g. best-before date, expiry date, etc.) was not necessary in this context, as these concepts were clearly defined in the GSLPF. It is noted that in previous rounds of the EWG, some members mentioned that the GSLPF also speaks to manufacturing and packaging dates as a type of date marking, which would be the earliest dates and not the intended ones to declare. To address these comments and simplify the text where possible, the specific dates were retained at the beginning of the text but were replaced by “date marking” and the reference to 4.7.1 (i) in the last sentence. In addition, the term “inner units” was replaced by “individually packaged foods” based on a member comment that this would be more clear and consistent with the rest of the draft text.

8. PRESENTATION OF MANDATORY INFORMATION

8.1 General

- 8.1.3** Where the container is covered by a wrapper, the wrapper shall carry the necessary information or the label on the container shall be readily legible through the outer wrapper or not obscured by it.

8.1.3.1 A container of pre-packaged food that is sold as a single unit and consists of more than one identical or different individually packaged foods, whether intended to be consumed together or separately, shall include on the outer packaging the mandatory labelling information for that container, as set out in Sections 4 and 5, unless the mandatory labelling information is readily legible and discernible on at least one of each type of the individually packaged foods that make up the container.

[a. Any mandatory labelling information ~~applicable to~~ for the pre-packaged food that is sold as a single unit that ~~differs from the information shown~~ is different to that on the individually packaged foods that make up the container must appear on the outer packaging. (e.g. Where the name and address required by Section 4.4 for the pre-packaged food sold as a single unit is different from that on the individually pre-packaged inner units, the name and address of the packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor of the single unit shall appear on the outer packaging.)]

Proposed change: Section 8.1.3.1A is revised as follows:

8.1.3.1 A container of pre-packaged food that is sold as a single unit and consists of more than one identical or different individually packaged foods, whether intended to be consumed together or separately, shall include on the outer packaging the mandatory labelling information for that container, as set out in Sections 4 and 5, unless the mandatory labelling information is readily legible and discernible on at least one of each type of the individually packaged foods that make up the container.

[a. Any mandatory labelling information **applicable to** for the pre-packaged food that is sold as a single unit that **differs from the information shown** is different to that on the individually packaged foods that make up the container must appear on the outer packaging. (e.g. Where the name and address required by Section 4.4 for the pre-packaged food sold as a single unit is different from that on the individually pre-packaged inner units, the name and address of the packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor of the single unit shall appear on the outer packaging.)]

Rationale: Given the differing opinions expressed in response to CL 2026/08-FL, the text in brackets remains, reflecting the lack of consensus. However, it has been adjusted, considering a suggestion from one member and comments from others indicating their potential support for improved wording.

Clean Copy of Proposed New Text**AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS
(CXS 1- 1985): PROPOSED PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO JOINT PRESENTATION AND MULTIPACK
FORMATS****(STEP 4)****4.2** *List of Ingredient***NEW Text to appear after existing text in 4.2.1:**

4.2.1 (bis) For pre-packaged foods subject to section 8.1.3.1, either separate lists of ingredients for each type of individually packaged food that makes up the container, or a combined list of ingredients shall be declared, as appropriate to the nature of the food such as whether the individually packaged foods are intended to be consumed separately or together.

4.3 *Net contents and drained weight*

4.3.4 For pre-packaged foods that are subject to section 8.1.3.1 and intended to be consumed separately, the net contents shall be declared by indicating:

1. the total net contents of the pre-packaged food sold as a single unit; and/or
2. the number of individually pre-packaged foods per type and their respective net contents, either on the outer container or on the individually packaged foods that make up the container, if they can easily be counted and their net contents per type are clearly discernible and legible

4.7 *Date marking and storage instructions*

4.7.1 If not otherwise determined in an individual Codex standard, the following date marking shall apply, unless Section 4.7.1 (vii) applies:

4.7.1 (vi) bis: For pre-packaged foods subject to section 8.1.3.1, the best-before date, best quality-before date, use-by date, or expiration date, which is declared on the outer packaging, shall correspond to the earliest date of the individually packaged foods that make up the container when these differ. If the individually packaged foods have more than one type of date marking, the earliest date of the foods that fall under section 4.7.1(i) must be declared.

8. PRESENTATION OF MANDATORY INFORMATION**8.1** *General*

8.1.3 Where the container is covered by a wrapper, the wrapper shall carry the necessary information or the label on the container shall be readily legible through the outer wrapper or not obscured by it.

8.1.3.1 A container of pre-packaged food that is sold as a single unit and consists of more than one identical or different individually packaged foods, whether intended to be consumed together or separately, shall include on the outer packaging the mandatory labelling information for that container, as set out in Sections 4 and 5, unless the mandatory labelling information is readily legible and discernible on at least one of each type of the individually packaged foods that make up the container.

[Any mandatory labelling information applicable to the pre-packaged food sold as a single unit that differs from the information shown on the individually packaged foods that make up the container must appear on the outer packaging.]