

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-ninth Session

Ottawa, Canada

11-15 May 2026

COMMENTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

Agenda item 5: Annex to the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985): Guidelines on the use of precautionary allergen labelling (PAL) (Step 7)

The UK has concerns that paragraph 36 may unintentionally suggest that there is consensus that drying a herb or spice can confer a new origin on it, when it is elsewhere clarified that there were 'mixed views' on this matter. The UK believes that a) this is a matter for the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH); and b) that drying would not be a substantial enough change to confer origin.

We therefore propose the following addition:

36. Many members supported the idea of CCFL providing more clarity around labelling when the country of harvest and country of origin of a spice or culinary herb are the same. Some went on to specify that when the country of harvest and origin coincide, one label declaration would suffice, e.g. "Product of (naming the country)". EWG members also provided examples of this situation: one explained that saffron is a highly perishable commodity, and drying must take place immediately after harvest; therefore, **whether or not the drying is considered a substantial enough change to confer origin**, the country of origin and the country of harvest are the same, and this should be stated in the relevant standard. Another producing country explained that the key process of fermentation and drying of vanilla generally takes place in the country of harvest using traditional methods that do change the fundamental nature of the vanilla bean. There were other EWG members who did not support the option of CCFL providing guidance on labelling when country of origin and country of harvest are the same, as they viewed it as unnecessary or redundant. CX/FL 26/49/2 Add.1 5.'