

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 3

CX/FL 10/38/3

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Thirty-eighth Session

Québec City, Québec, Canada, 3 - 7 May 2010

CONSIDERATION OF LABELLING PROVISIONS IN DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS (CCFFV, CCFPP)

A. Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables¹

Draft Standard for Bitter Cassava at Step 8 (Section 6)

6. MARKING OR LABELLING

6.1 CONSUMER PACKAGES

In addition to the requirements of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985), the following specific provisions apply:

6.1.1 Nature of Produce

Each package shall be labelled as to the name of the produce and type (bitter) and may be labelled as to the name of the variety.

6.1.2 Preparation Instructions⁶

A statement indicating the following is required:

- cassava must not be eaten raw;
- cassava shall be peeled, de-pithed, cut into pieces, rinsed and fully cooked before consumption; and
- cooking or rinsing water must not be consumed or used for other food preparation purposes.

6.2 NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS

Each package must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside, or in the documents accompanying the shipment.

6.2.1 Identification

Name and address of exporter, packer and/or dispatcher. Identification code (optional)⁷.

¹ ALINORM 10/33/35, paras 17 -23 and Appendix II and para 47 and Appendix III

6.2.2 Nature of Produce

Name of the produce and type (bitter) if the contents are not visible from the outside. Name of the variety (optional).

6.2.3 Origin of Produce

Country of origin and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name.

6.2.4 Commercial Identification

- Class;
- Size (size code or minimum and maximum diameter in centimetres);
- Net weight;
- Preparation instructions (see Section 6.1.2).

6.2.5 Official Inspection Mark (optional)

⁶ In the case of unpackaged bitter cassava, information on safe handling and preparation shall be made available to the consumer at the point of sale.

⁷ The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in the case where a code mark is used, the reference “packer and/or dispatcher (or equivalent abbreviations)” has to be indicated in close connection with the code mark.

Draft Standard for Apples (Section 6)

6. MARKING OR LABELLING

6.1 CONSUMER PACKAGES

In addition to the requirements of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985), the following specific provisions apply:

6.1.1 Nature of Produce

If the produce is not visible from the outside, each package shall be labelled as to the name of the produce and may be labelled as to name of the variety, class, colour code (if used) and size/weight or the number of pieces presented in rows and layers.

6.2 NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS

Each package must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside, or in the documents accompanying the shipment. For produce transported in bulk, these particulars must appear on a document accompanying the goods.

6.2.1 Identification

Name and address of exporter, packer and/or dispatcher. Identification code (optional)⁴.

6.2.2 Nature of Produce

Name of the produce if the contents are not visible from the outside. Name of the variety or varieties (where appropriate).

6.2.3 Origin of Produce

Country of origin and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name.

6.2.4 Commercial Identification

- Class;

- Size (if sized);
- Colour code (if used).

6.2.5 Official Inspection Mark (optional)^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}

4 The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in the case where a code mark is used, the reference “packer and/or dispatcher (or equivalent abbreviations)” has to be indicated in close connection with the code mark.

B. Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products²

Draft Standard for Sturgeon Caviar at Step 8 (Section 7)

7. LABELLING

In addition to the provisions of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985) the following specific provisions apply:

7.1 The Name of the Food

7.1.1 For the *Acipenseridae* family, the name of the food shall be “caviar” or “caviar” completed with the usual name (Beluga for *Huso huso*, Ossetra for *Acipenser guldenstaedtii* and *Acipenser persicus*, Sevruga for *Acipenser stellatus*), in accordance with the law and custom of the country in which the product is sold, in a manner not to mislead the consumer.

7.1.2 For sturgeons having no common names, the name may be supplemented with the identification code or the scientific name of the species in accordance with Annex A.

7.1.3 For hybrids the common name shall be supplemented with the word hybrid, and the parent sturgeon species may be shown according to Annex A.

7.1.4 For caviar obtained from ovulated eggs, the product name shall be “caviar from ovulated eggs”. The labelling shall be written in such a way as to avoid any risk of misleading consumers on the nature of the product.

7.2 Storage Instruction

The labelling shall include terms to indicate that the product shall be stored under appropriate time/temperature conditions.

7.3 Repackaging

In case of repackaging of the product the facility registration code shall be identified.

7.4 Labelling of non-retail containers

Each primary container shall be labelled with the number markings of the lot and the species.

Information specified above shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the food, lot identification, and the name and address as well as storage instructions shall always appear on the container. However lot identification, and the name and address may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

² ALINORM 10/33/18, para 68 and Appendix V

C. Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products³

Draft Amendment to the Standard for Fermented Milks (CODEX STAN 283-2003) (Section 7.1)

The underlined words to be added to sub-section 7.1.1 to be amended as follows:

7.1 NAME OF THE FOOD

The chapeau sentence of sub-Section 7.1.1 as follows

7.1.1 The name of the ~~food~~ products covered by sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, shall be fermented milk or concentrated fermented milk as appropriate.

The following new sub-Section to be inserted after subsection 7.1.3 as follows and subsequent sub-Sections to be re-numbered accordingly:

7.1.4 The name of the products defined in Section 2.4 shall be drinks based on fermented milk or may be designated with other variety names as allowed in the national legislation of the country in which the product is sold. In particular, water added as an ingredient to fermented milk shall be declared in the list of ingredients* and the percentage of fermented milk used (m/m) shall clearly appear on the label. When flavoured, the designation shall include the name of the principal flavouring substance(s) or flavour(s) added.

* As prescribed in section 4.2.1.5 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (footnote)

The underlined words to be added in Sub-section 7.1.5 as follows:

7.1.5 Fermented milks to which only nutritive carbohydrate sweeteners have been added, may be labelled as “sweetened _____”, the blank being replaced by the term “Fermented Milk” or another designation as specified in Sections 7.1.1 and 7.1.4. If non-nutritive sweeteners are added in partial or total substitution to sugar, the mention “sweetened with _____” or “sugared and sweetened with _____” should appear close to the name of the product, the blank being filled in with the name of the artificial sweeteners.

D. Codex Committee on Food Additives⁴

Proposed draft Guidelines on substances used as processing aids (Section 5.0)

5.0 LABELLING

5.1 Labelling of substances used as processing aids should be in accordance with the requirement of the Codex *General Standard for Labelling of Food Additives When Sold as Such* (CODEX STAN 107-1981) and the Codex *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Food* (CODEX STAN 1-1985).

E. Codex Committee on Food Hygiene⁵

Proposed Draft Annex on Leafy Vegetables Including Leafy Herbs to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Section 9.3)

9.3 LABELING

Refer to the General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Food (CODEX STAN 1-199) and In addition, the following should be considered:

- Consumer’s handling information should provide specific directions for product storage and use, including regarding the ‘use-by’ date or other shelf-life indicators when provided. Consumers need clear guidance on keeping washed RTE bagged fresh leafy vegetables refrigerated until used.

³ ALINORM 10/33/11, paras 26 - 39 and Appendix II

⁴ ALINORM 10/33/12, para. 125 and Appendix VIII

⁵ ALINORM 10/33/13, para. 82 and Appendix II and paras 93-94 and Appendix III.

Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Pathogenic *Vibrio* Species in Seafood (Section 9.3)**9.3 LABELLING**

1. Refer to *the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985). Where appropriate, product labels should include information on safe handling practices and storage recommendations.
2. In addition, countries should give consideration to labelling of unpackaged live or raw seafood, so that consumers are adequately informed with respect to the safety and true nature (alive or not alive) of these products. In particular, seafood that is at a high risk of being contaminated with pathogenic *Vibrios* spp., should be labelled to alert at-risk consumers to avoid or cook these products, in line with the legislation in the countries where these products are retailed or sold. Any treatment (*e.g.* heat treatment), that is applied to the product should be mentioned in the labelling if consumers would be misled by its omission.