



49th Joint Coordination Meeting of Arab and CCNE Codex Contact Points

**PREPARATION FOR THE 49th SESSION OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
(CCFL)**

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Agenda item 4: Consideration of labelling provisions in draft Codex standards (endorsement)

CX/FL 26/49/4 and Add.1

Background

Agenda Item 4 of CCFL49

- Addresses the consideration and endorsement of **labelling provisions** included in draft Codex **standards** submitted **by various commodity committees**.
- According to the **Codex Procedural Manual**, commodity committees are required to **align** their labelling provisions with the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (**CXS 1-1985**), and the labelling of non-retail containers (**CXS 346-2021**). Any exemptions or additional requirement must be referred to **CCFL** for review and endorsement.
- Plays a critical role in ensuring **consistency and harmonization** of labelling provisions across Codex standards, while allowing for **product-specific** requirements where justified.

Agenda item 4: Consideration of labelling provisions in draft Codex standards (endorsement)

CX/FL 26/49/4 and Add.1

Analysis

The labelling provisions submitted for endorsement under this agenda item originate from multiple Codex committees, including those dealing with fresh produce, regional foods, and spices.

- **(CCFFV)** → Draft Standard for Fresh Curry Leaves
- **(CCASIA)** → Regional Standard for Quick-Frozen Dumplings
- **(CCNE)** → Regional Standard for Maamoul
→ Standard for Spices Derived from Dried or Dehydrated Fruits and Berries – Requirements for Vanilla
- **(CCSCH)** → Standard for Spices in the Form of Dried Fruits and Berries – Requirements for Large Cardamom
→ Standard for Coriander
→ Standard for Sweet Marjoram

A. CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (CCFFV)

The draft standard for FRESH CURRY LEAVES to CAC for adoption at Step 5/8.

- the labelling provisions are straightforward and largely consistent with existing Codex standards for **fresh fruits and vegetables**.
- In addition to the requirements of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (**CXS 1-1985 and CXS 346-2021**):
 - The requirements focus primarily on **product identification** and **origin declaration**.
 - The inclusion of optional geographical information, such as region or district, reflects an increasing emphasis **on traceability and product differentiation**.
 - Also the products originate from multiple sources, which may require **clear and careful labelling to avoid consumer confusion**.

B. FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA (CCASIA)

Regional standard for QUICK-FROZEN DUMPLINGS (Asia) to CAC for adoption at Step 8.

- In addition to the requirements of the General Standards for labelling (**CXS 1-1985 and CXS 346-2021**):
 - the labelling provisions are more detailed and include specific requirements related to:
product description (raw or cooked) → important from a food safety perspective
storage conditions → importance of maintaining product integrity throughout the supply chain.

C. FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEAR EAST (CCNE)

Regional standard for MAAMOUL (Near East) to CAC for adoption at Step 8.

- In addition to the requirements of the General Standards for labelling (**CXS 1-1985 and CXS 346-2021**):
 - Labelling provisions are limited to basic **product identification** and **declaration of filling type**. This reflects the **traditional nature of the product** and the need to maintain clarity. The approach taken here demonstrates how Codex allows **flexibility in labelling requirements**, depending on the nature of the product.

D. CODEX COMMITTEE FOR SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS (CCSCH)

The draft standard for spices - Requirements for VANILLA, LARGE CARDAMOM, CORIANDER, and SWEET MARJORAM to CAC for adoption at Step 8.

- In addition to the requirements of the General Standards for labelling (**CXS 1-1985 and CXS 346-2021**):
 - demonstrate a high level of detail, **provisions and standardization** on the **product name and origin**. Also **optional elements** such as **trade name or scientific name, country of harvest, harvest year, and commercial classification (grade, size)**. This reflects the importance of traceability and quality differentiation in international trade of spices.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS **CCFO29(2026)**

The draft standard for MICROBIAL OMEGA-3 OILS to CAC49 (2026) for adoption at Step 5.

- In addition to the requirements of the General Standards for labelling (**CXS 1-1985 and CXS 346-2021**):
 - Labelling requirements extend beyond basic identification to include **nutritional components** such as EPA and DHA content and the **product name** must include the source organism (genus), such as algal oil (Schizochytrium sp.). This reflects the growing importance of functional foods, particularly in the case of microbial omega-3 oils, which require more detailed information to be provided to consumers.

Overall Assessment

The labelling provisions submitted for endorsement are:

- ✓ Well aligned with Codex principles
- ✓ High degree of consistency with the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Food **(CXS 1-1985)** and the General Standard for the labelling of non-retail containers **(CXS 346-2021)**.
- ✓ Increasing the use of standardized templates, contributes positively to harmonization across standards.
- ✓ A clear trend toward increased detail and complexity can be observed (multiple optional elements), this may enhance transparency and traceability, it also raises concerns regarding practicality and enforceability (create challenges for both industry and regulatory authorities).

Recommendations

- ✓ Support endorsement of labelling provisions that align with **CXS 1-1985** and **CXS 346-2021**
- ✓ Ensure any additional provisions are clearly justified
- ✓ Promote harmonization across commodity standards
- ✓ Encourage clarity and simplicity in labelling requirements
- ✓ Avoid unnecessary duplication of existing Codex provisions

