

European Union Comments

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING Thirty-eighth Session

Proposed Draft Recommended Principles and Criteria for Legibility of Nutrition Labelling

Comments at Step 3 (CL 2009/15-FL Part B point 4)

The European Union (EU) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommended Principles and Criteria for Legibility of Nutrition Labelling. The EU has considered the proposed text included in Appendix III of Alinorm 09/32/22 and provides the following comments.

General Principles

The EU supports Option Two, namely a cross reference to the relevant provisions in the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods. The EU believes that this option avoids the possibility that over time differences could emerge between the principles that apply under the General Standard and those that are included in the principles and criteria for legibility of nutrition labelling.

The EU proposes that the complete reference to the Codex Standard should be given, therefore, the reference to "the Codex GSLPF" should be replaced by "the Codex *Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985)*".

Specific Elements of Presentation

Paragraph 6 - The EU supports the inclusion of Option Two as this option allows for aspects other than legibility alone to be taken into consideration with respect to the presentation of nutrition information.

Paragraph 7 – The EU agrees with the proposed paragraph 7.

Exemptions and Special Provisions

The EU believes that paragraphs 11 and 12 should remain in square brackets until the discussions on the list of mandatory nutrition labelling particulars has been concluded.

Other Provisions for Consideration

First bullet point (deleted) - The EU supports the deletion of the first bullet point.

Second bullet point – It is not clear to the EU how this proposal would interact with the specific standards that require nutrition labelling on certain foods. Some of the principles would in any case apply through the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepacked Foods that applies to mandatory labelling particulars.

Third bullet point – The EU believes that the question of declaration of insignificant amounts of nutrients could be considered further but it is not clear whether it would be necessary to include the provision in the principles and criteria for legibility of nutrition labelling. The EU has a reservation on the proposal that there could be a complete exemption from providing nutrition information on particulars that are mandatory when nutrition labelling is provided.

Fourth bullet point – The EU believes that the possibility for the nutrient declaration to relate to the food as consumed, such as after reconstitution or draining, would be a useful way of providing the nutrition information to the consumer. Again it is not clear to the EU whether this is an issue to be considered in the context of the principles and criteria for legibility of nutrition labelling or whether it should be considered as part of the Guidelines for Nutrition Labelling itself.

Fifth bullet point – The EU does not consider that the principle of the provision of nutrition information concerning products in small packages is related to the legibility of information; therefore, the EU does not consider it necessary to include the proposed provision in the text.

Sixth bullet point – The EU does not consider this is a principle or criteria for the legibility of nutrition labelling so does not consider it is necessary to include the provision in the text.

Seventh bullet point – The EU does not consider that it is necessary to include this provision in the proposed text. The EU believes that the provisions of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepacked Foods already cover this point. Specifically, Section 2 of the Standard gives a definition of "label" which refers to "tag" and paragraph 8.1.1 of the Standard requires that labels "shall be applied in such a manner that they will not become separated from the container".