



**Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses
(CCNFSDU)**

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Last Meeting: 41st Session Dusseldorf, Germany, 24-29 November 2019

Full Report of the 41st Session – [Link to Report & Agenda](#)

Next Meeting: 42nd Session, 23 – 27 November 2020, venue TBA

New Zealand attended the 41st session of the CCNFSDU. Main outcomes of importance to NZ were:

Review of the Follow-up Formula Standard (Chaired by New Zealand)

- The issue of cross promotion (using the labelling of one product to promote others) has been particularly controversial in this committee and the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL). After robust discussions CCNFSDU adopted text that, although a compromise, was acceptable to the Committee. This provision will be sent to CCFL46 for endorsement.
- With regards to the name of these products for young children, the only acceptable solution was to recognise two names to accommodate the different global views of how these products should be used and the role that they play in the diets of young children.
- While the definition of product for young children was not finalised significant progress was made including resolving the most controversial component which was whether they are a breast-milk substitute or not. The committee agreed not to define them as such.
- There are a number of issues that are still outstanding for completion of this work including the Preamble which includes whether WHO and WHA documents are referenced in the Standard and the structure of the standard/s.
- New Zealand has been charged with continuing to lead the eWG during 2020 with a view of completion of the work on this Standard at the next meeting.
- The eWG will focus on finalising the definition of product for young children and reviewing the FAO/WHO report on nitrogen to protein conversion factors and the implications of this report for this work. This work is of particular interest to the New Zealand dairy industry.
- The scope, description, and labelling provisions are to be held at Step 7.

Proposed draft Guideline for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF)

- Good progress was made on the development of this guideline and the Committee agreed to advance it to Step 5 for adoption by CAC42.
- The labelling provisions will be forwarded to CCFL for endorsement.

Trans-Fatty Acids (TFA)

- The Committee agreed to discontinue work on the claim for “free” of TFA and to inform CCFL, noting that CCFL may wish to consider possible actions in that Committee. CCNFSDU also agreed to advise CCFL of the plenary discussions and to consider work in that Committee on possible ways to reduce TFAs or eliminate PHOs.

Definition for Biofortification

- The Committee agree to discontinue this work.



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NRVs-R for Older Infants and Young Children for Labelling Purposes

- The Committee agreed to continue its work on NRVs-R for older infants and young children. An eWG will be established in 202 to develop general principles to guide the establishment of these NRVs-R, including the most appropriate approach to derive NRVs-R, based on an analysis of Dietary Intake Reference Values from FAO/WHO and the 6 RASBs, and the purpose of these NRVs-R for labelling.

Mechanism/Framework for Considering the Technological Justification of Food Additives

- Good progress was made with the Committee finalising the mechanism/framework. Further, the Committee endorsed the pWG recommendation that the use of xanthan gum and pectin is technologically justified in formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants. With respect to gellan gum, the Committee agree to request the applicant to provide more information.
- The Committee also agreed to establish a eWG to review information on the technological justification of additives currently listed in the Infant Formula Standard for which no appropriate safety assessment for infants (before 12 weeks of age) has been undertaken by JECFA.

Prioritisation mechanism to better manage the work of CCNFSDU

- The Committee considered a prioritisation mechanism to better manage the work of CCNFSDU. Agreement was reached to hold a pWG prior to CCNFSDU42 to refine the mechanism and pilot it with the three current, and any new work proposals for consideration by the Committee.

Harmonised Probiotic Guidelines for Use in Foods and Dietary Supplements

- The Committee agreed that the Proposal for this work should be revised and submitted in accordance with the prioritisation mechanism (see above).

General Guidelines to Establish Nutrient Profiles

- There was general support from the Committee for developing guidance in order to establish nutrient profiles for the use of Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL) and that this guidance would be complementary to work in CCFL on FOPNL.
- The Committee agreed that Costa Rica would lead an eWG to progress the development of a discussion paper and project document which defines the scope for developing general guidelines for establishing nutrient profiles for use in FOPNL.