

European Union comments
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE
Forty-eighth Session
Los Angeles, California, United States of America,
7 - 11 November 2016

Agenda Item 2:

**Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission
and/or Other Codex Subsidiary Bodies to the
Food Hygiene Committee**

*Mixed Competence
European Union Vote*

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES

MATTERS FOR ACTION

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL43)

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) question the inclusion of criterion 1.2 "under stated storage conditions" in the text on date marking proposed by CCFL. This criterion is rather broad, and could imply that any frozen food could be exempted from date marking as its storage conditions (keep frozen) do not support microbial growth. The EUMS believe that this is not the intention of CCFL and would therefore recommend deleting criterion 1.2.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA20)

The European Union and its Member States consider the hygiene provisions proposed in the text proposed by CCASIA as suitable with the following amendment to paragraph 46:

"Frozen food should be thawed only once before ~~cooking~~ **and used for food preparation immediately after thawing.**"

The EUMS believe it is important to use the food very quickly after thawing to prevent bacterial growth. Furthermore, "cooking" should be replaced by "food preparation" as frozen food is not always cooked before consumption.