

**European Union comments for the
CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND
FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES**

**Thirty-seventh Session
Bad Soden am Taunus, Germany, 23 – 27 November 2015**

AGENDA ITEM 4:

**Proposed Draft Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for
Labelling Purposes in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling
(CX/NFSDU 15/37/4)**

*European Union competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) would like to thank Australia, as Chair of the e-WG for the work done so far. The EU has the following comments on the Proposed Draft Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CX/NFSDU 15/37/4).

Recommendation 1: NRV-R for Vitamin A

That CCNFSDU agrees to retain the NRV-R as 800 µg and based on IOM

The EU would opt for a NRV that has been established taking into account the most recent scientific opinion delivered by RASBs, therefore the EU would support a value of 700 µg.

Recommendation 2: NRV-R for Vitamin D

That CCNFSDU agrees to:

- A revise upward the NRV-R from 5 µg
- B select either 10 µg or 15 µg and based on relevant RASB

The EU proposes to continue work on the decision about the NRV-R for vitamin D in 2016. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) plans to deliver a final opinion within June 2016. This time-frame reflects the very active research happening in this field, and the need to take into account all the latest scientific data.

Recommendation 3: Footnote to NRV-R for Vitamin D

That CCNFSDU agrees to:

- A establish a footnote to the NRV-R
- B adopt footnote wording including selection of text in square brackets in line with decision on Recommendation #2.

The EU, in principle, agrees with the inclusion of a footnote. However, the EU believes that the actual text should be discussed after having agreed on a NRV-R for vitamin D. The EU would therefore welcome a deferral of the discussion to 2016.

Recommendation 4: NRV-R for Vitamin E

That CCNFSDU agrees to establish a NRV-R of 9 mg and based equally on Nordic Council, and average of EFSA, NHRMC/MOH, NIHN, WHO/FAO (all AIs)

The EU would opt for the NRV that has been most recently suggested by the RASBs; therefore the EU would support a value of 12 mg for Vitamin E.

Recommendations 5, 6 and 7, NRV-R for Iron, Dietary Description for Iron, footnote to NRV-R for Iron

That CCNFSDU agrees to:

- A modify the NRV-R to refer to % dietary absorption
- B revise the NRV-R from 14 mg to 14 mg (15% dietary absorption) and 22 mg (10% dietary absorption) and based on WHO/FAO.

Subject to agreement to Recommendation 5, that CCNFSDU agrees to the dietary descriptions adapted from WHO/FAO (2006) that correspond to the selected NRVs-R.

Subject to agreement with Recommendation 5, that CCNFSDU agrees to also attach to iron the ** footnote indicator currently attached to zinc.

The EU notes the overwhelming support of the eWG for establishing the two proposed NRVs-R. The EU can support the proposed values as well as the draft dietary descriptions and the footnote.

Recommendation 8: NRV-R for Magnesium

That CCNFSDU agrees to revise the NRV-R from 300 mg to 310 mg and based on average of IOM, NIHN, WHO/FAO ± Nordic Council (INL98 ± RI).

The EU would favour a value of 330 mg based on the average of the values recommended by IOM, NIHM, Nordic Council and EFSA. We believe this to be the value that best reflects the different candidate DIRVs of the RASBs.

Recommendation 9: NRV-R for Phosphorus

On the basis of eWG consideration, that CCNFSDU agrees to establish a NRV-R of 700 mg and based on IOM.

The EU would like to inform the Committee that EFSA published its final opinion in 2015. Therein, EFSA considered that the available data are insufficient to derive Average Requirements and Population Reference Intakes for phosphorus, and therefore set AIs for all population groups. For adults, the AI of 550 mg was set. The EU therefore proposes to correct the relevant table's entry, which includes a preliminary EFSA suggested value of 700 mg. The EU would opt for the NRV that has been most recently established by the RASBs, therefore the EU supports a value of 550 mg.

Recommendation 10: NRV-R for Copper

That CCNFSDU agrees to establish a NRV-R of 900 µg and based on IOM.

The EU notes that the proposed value is lower than the one proposed by the NHRMC/MOH and EFSA in their most recent opinion. EFSA concluded in its opinion that "Average Requirements" and "Population Reference Intakes" for copper cannot be derived for adults as there was no scientific evidence to support them; and proposed instead for adults "Adequate Intakes", which consider the range of average copper intakes estimated from dietary surveys in eight EU countries. In addition, balance studies were used as supportive evidence for deriving Adequate Intakes (AIs) for men. The EU is aware that AIs reflect intake in the EU, which may not be representative for other parts of the world. However, the balance studies taken into account seem to suggest that zero balance occurs at intakes higher than the proposed NRV-R value of 900 µg. Therefore, the EU considers that the proposed NRV-R of

of 900 µg could be too low. Consequently, the EU prefers to establish a higher NRV-R such as 1.5 mg which would reflect the values from both RASBs NHMRC/MOH and EFSA.

Recommendation 11: NRV-R for Chromium

That CCNFSDU agrees to establish a NRV-R of 30 µg and based on IOM.

The EU notes that according to the latest opinion of RASBs, that deriving an AR and a PRI for chromium for the performance of physiological functions is inappropriate. After having examined the latest scientific evidence, there seem to be no indication of beneficial effects associated with chromium intake in healthy subjects. Therefore, the setting of an AI for chromium does not seem to be justified; consequently, the EU would rather not establish a NRV-R for Chromium.

Recommendation 12: NRV-R for Chloride

That CCNFSDU agrees to:

- A establish a NRV-R for chloride
- B select 2300 mg or 3000 mg and based on relevant rationale or RASB.

The EU would propose to continue discussions in 2016 with a view to find a NRV for chloride. This would enable the Committee to consider the most recently established candidate DRIV by EFSA.

Recommendation 13: Vitamin A Dietary Equivalents and Conversion Factors

That CCNFSDU agrees to:

- A insert an entry for vitamin A in the second table to paragraph 3.4.4.1 of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling
- B include both RAE and RE and their conventional conversion factors as alternative dietary equivalents for Vitamin A occurring naturally in food as discussed in section 4.1
- C include two principal forms of retinol that are added to food as shown in section 4.2
- D delete the * currently attached to vitamin A NRV-R and related footnote relating to declaration of β-carotene.

The EU can support recommendations, A, B and D as proposed. With regard to C, the EU considers it is not necessary to include the 2 forms of retinol in the Codex Guidelines. The reason is that these 2 forms of retinol do not represent a comprehensive list of all forms of Vitamin A that can be added to foods, and such an inclusion would be inconsistent with the listing of other nutrients.

Recommendation 14: Vitamin E Dietary Equivalents and Conversion Factors

That CCNFSDU agrees to:

- A insert an entry for vitamin E in the second table to paragraph 3.4.4.1 of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling
- B include α-tocopherol as the active form of vitamin E occurring naturally in food as shown in section 4.3
- C include three common forms of vitamin E that are added to food as shown in section 4.4.

The EU can support recommendations A and B as proposed. With regard to C, the EU does not consider it necessary to include the 3 forms of Vitamin A. Again, the reason is that these do not represent a comprehensive list of all forms of Vitamin E that can be added to foods and such an inclusion would be inconsistent with the listing of other nutrients.

Recommendation 15: Second Table Heading and Footnote

That CCFNSDU agrees to the proposed revisions in section 4.5 above.

The EU can support the proposed changes.

Recommendation 16: RASB Definition in Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling

That CCFNSDU agrees to insert the definition of RASB in the Annex to Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling at new paragraph 2.5.

Recommendation 17: Record of NRV-R decisions

That CCFNSDU agrees to:

- A record the details of all NRVs-R from this revision in the Annex to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling
- B insert the table in section 6 into the Annex at new section 4 updated to include decisions from this session of CCFNSDU.

The EU can support the recommendations.

Recommendation 18: Draft General Principles for NRVs-R for Older Infants and Young Children

That CCFNSDU agrees to the draft General Principles presented in section 8.

Recommendation 19: Consequential amendments to age of general population in Nutrition Labelling Guidelines

Subject to agreement to Recommendation #18, that CCFNSDU agrees to revise 'older than 36 months' to '36 months and older' in paragraph 3.4.4, the Annex Preamble and GP 3.2.1.2. in the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling*.

The EU would suggest a reflection on the best way to prioritise this work, given the undeniable effort required. Currently, nutrient content and health claims are not permitted for foods for infants and children, except where specifically provided for in the relevant Codex standards - which is currently not the case - or by national legislation. In order to assess the extent to which the development of NRVs-R would enable harmonisation, the EU recommends investigating if there are countries that permit nutrient content and health claims for older infants and young children.

Until such time as this information is available, the EU questions the usefulness of establishing NRV-Rs for older infants and young children at this point of time.