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# **Pushing and Pulling: The Caribbean Experience Moving Towards Front-Of- Package Nutrition Labels**

**Revision of the standard Labelling of  
Pre-packaged Foods to include FÖPL  
(Update)**

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# Composition

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- RTSC established
- RTSC comprises 11 MS
- Representatives include health personnel, regulators and industry personnel
- Currently being chaired by Barbados
- Committee operates via principally via online meetings

# Content of standard

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- Scope
- Terms and definitions
- General Principles of food labelling
- Labelling requirements - general and specific
- Additional labelling requirements such as foods for special dietary uses, organically produced foods, etc
- FOPL requirements

- The standard is updated inserting the requirements of the 2018 version of the CODEX Alimentarius Standard for Food labelling
- FOPL Warning label system with criteria for defining Products excessive  
In the various nutrients.





# Process Update



- Working draft developed with FOPL(warning label) included and circulated to RTSC members for review and comments.
- Face-to-face consensus meeting held in Guyana
- All comments disposed and working draft being amended accordingly
- Amended draft circulated as a CARICOM Regional Draft Standard (DCRS) to MS for comments

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- Original deadline for comments 11 January, 2019. Comments period extended to 31 March, 2019 upon requests from Member States.
  - 113 pages of comments received from 14 Member States.
  - Consultant engaged to assist with disposition of comments process.

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- Comments disposition commenced with editorial comments at 2 online meetings.
  - 2nd. Face-to-Face meeting held in Suriname 14 – 15 May, 2019 to continue comments disposition.
  - Time insufficient to address all comments, disposition of comments ongoing via online meetings.



# Challenges:

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- Availability of RTSC members to attend online meetings for the timely completion of the comments disposition.
- Availability of funding for the face-to-face consensus meeting
- Possibility of shifting FOPL requirements to the Nutritional Labelling standard based on a comment received from two MS.

# Next Steps

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- Completion of the comments disposition (by July 23, 2019)
- Face-to-face consensus meeting (Last week of July, 2019)
- Update Draft CARICOM Regional Standard (DCRS) to a Final Draft CARICOM Regional Standard (FDCRS)
- Circulate FDCRS to Member States for acceptance (August – October, 2019)

# Next Steps Continued

- Submission to CROSQ EC for editing and TMC for validation of the process (September 2019)
- Submission of recommendation to the CROSQ Council (October 2019)
- Submission to COTED for approval (November 2019 or April 2020)



- Upon approval of regional standard:
  - Member States to adopt nationally
  - Administrative provisions to be put in place nationally to give legal effect for mandatory implementation
  - Good regulatory practices to be employed in this regard.
  - Necessary education and awareness campaign developed and implemented.

# Recommendations

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- Proposed joint COTED COSHOD Meeting
- Special engagement with the Private Sector in each Member State with presentations on the evidence supporting the “**High In**” warning label.
- Source resources to host Consensus meeting
- Garner support for the initiative among consumers at the national level through an extensive public education and awareness campaign.
- Meeting at the national level between Health and Commerce/Trade Ministers



# THANK YOU

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- **QUESTIONS?**

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