

Codex Full Commission adopts Codex Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements in final form July 4, 2005, Rome Italy

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Press Release -

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by Diane Miller JD
National Health Freedom Coalition

Minutes ago the full Commission of Codex Alimentarius adopted in final form, the Codex Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements. This adoption is the Step 8 adoption, the final stage of adoption for the international Codex guidelines. The Codex Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements guidelines are now official and no longer in draft form.

The Commission, attended by over 85 of the 171 Codex countries, adopted the guidelines by consensus method. There was brief discussion before adoption taking in comments from a small number of countries and two NGOs. Australia requested adding the word "only" in Section 1.3 between the words "apply" and "in". The sentence would then read "These guidelines apply only in those jurisdictions where products defined in 2.1 are regulated as foods." Australia's comments were followed by request from Venezuela and Spain to clarify the Spanish translation. Venezuela was followed by China. China stated that every government in making decisions about vitamins and minerals should take into account the dietary limitations of their own countries, that governments can select vitamins and minerals according to the customs and habits of their country. China also pointed out that there should be definitions of the sources of vitamins.

Columbia spoke up and commented that Vitamins and Minerals are intended for deficiencies and are recommended for health reasons and said that there has to be no exaggerated use of minerals.

Egypt commented and offered a clarification saying that vitamin and minerals can be considered if daily needs are not being met.

After the countries were heard, the Chairman recognized NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations). National Health Federation (NHF) a world wide consumer organization with NGO status at Codex was recognized to speak. Attorney Scott Tipps of NHF stood and requested the guidelines not be adopted but rather be sent back to committee for 3 important reasons. 1) According to Codex rules a "purpose" statement must be part of all guidelines adopted and the Vitamin and Mineral guidelines did not contain a purpose. Secondly, the guidelines did not define vitamin and mineral and therefore it is unclear as to what is being regulated. And lastly, he pointed out that the Chinese comments were substantive and according to Codex rules on page 27 of the procedural manual, a substantive amendment request should be addressed at the committee level. His comments were heard.

The NGO IADSA was then recognized. IADSA stressed the fact that the draft guidelines should be adopted because they had been worked on in committee for near 10 years and that valuable consensus had been reached in the Bonn Germany committee meeting and the guidelines should now be passed.

After all comments, the Chair, consulted with counsel to assess whether the addition of the word "only" would change the meaning of the sentence. After learning that it would not he consulted with Australia and Australia repeated their request for amendment. The Chair recommended adoption of the amendment and there was no dissent. Then the Chair recommended the guidelines be adopted at Stage 8 in their final form and that China submit their substantive amendment requests to the committee at their next meeting. There was no further comment or dissent from any country and the guidelines were adopted.

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FOLKS:

Prior to the Codex meeting in Rome, there had been hope that the disarray regarding the risk assessment portion of the "guidelines" to be affirmed was such that risk assessment would not be affirmed at this meeting, but a later meeting of Codex. It appears that news of this disarray over the last several months was a red herring and the cloakroom players were going to affirm the entire list of "guidelines" this session, after all.

This fight is far from over. There were representatives of many citizen-groups opposed to the "guidelines" at the Rome meeting as well as at prior meetings over the last several years. The problem is, the UN/Codex system does not allow for input from ordinary people or most of the active health freedom groups....only organizations which represent the industry...organizations around the world that have been fully infiltrated by the drug industry.

It is time to turn up the heat on our own elected officials and decry the actions of the FDA and the entire US Delegation at these Codex meetings. Our federal law, DSHEA, was just voted out of existence and the FDA and the rest of the US Delegation helped.

Please go to <http://okhealthfreedom.homestead.com/Index1.html> , read the material posted, watch the documentary posted and contact your public servants this week as instructed. This time, make sure that you convince your public servants that you will not stand for your vitamins being turned into prescription drugs or left on the over-the-counter market in such low potency level as to be rendered useless.

ALSO....Please make it very clear to your US Representative that is imperative that he/she vote against CAFTA. CAFTA is an expansion of the NAFTA agreement and has sections in it that will require the US to "harmonize" international regulations (i.e. Codex) with US law. The US Senate has already voted for CAFTA ---- BUT you must contact your US Senators in outrage about Codex and provide them with the posted documentation as an educational process!!!!!!

KEEP THE FAITH.....AND ACT NOW!