



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

Twenty-Sixth Session

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 February- 01 March 2019

Monitoring of the application of the Codex Standard for Fish Oils (CODEX STAN 329-2017)

(Prepared by Chile and Switzerland)

Introduction

1. The 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO25) forwarded the draft Standard for Fish Oils to CAC40 at Step 8, and the Commission adopted it in 2017. The newly adopted Standard for Fish Oils is now identified by the code CODEX STAN 329-2017.
2. CCFO25 discussed (REP17/FO para 17) the difficulties associated with using only the fatty acid ranges of Table 1 as a measure to determine compliance of a fish oil with Section 2.1 of the Standard on Fish Oil. Specifically, the positive verification of the fish species used as raw material may not always be unequivocal. It was agreed that current practice to refer to supplementary information from traceability and certification systems could assist stakeholders (industry, control authorities).
3. The Committee agreed to encourage members to monitor the application of the standard with respect to the conformity of named fish oils with the requirements (especially the fatty acid profile), its effect on trade and to bring this information to the 26th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO26). Chile and Switzerland offered to coordinate this work and present the information for consideration by the CCFO26.
4. Based on that data the Committee at its 25th Session agreed to evaluate whether a revision of the fatty acid profiles for named fish oils is necessary and whether other aspects such as additional complementary criteria are needed.

Approach

5. A Circular Letter (CL 2017/74-FO) invited all Codex members and observers to provide the information and data. In order to facilitate submission and evaluation the delegations of Chile and Switzerland agreed on a tabular form (see Annex II).

Information, data, and comments received

6. Six Codex members (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Japan, Norway, and Peru) submitted comments in response to the *Circular letter*. Their feedback is summarized in Annex I. Most data are reported for 2017, one member provided also data for 2015/16 (applying the standard before its adoption). Total quantity of oils for which observations were reported are approx. 160'000 tons, for 2017 information and data for approx. 120'000 tons of fish oil were provided.
7. One member (Chile) observed that the period of monitoring was short and may not yet allow to draw conclusions.
8. One member (Norway) with significant trade in fish oil stated that in their "experience so far, the Codex Standard for Fish Oils has worked according to expectations" and facilitated trade.
9. Peru stated that the Spanish translation of the term "anchovy" in Section 1.1.1 of the standard using the name "anchoa" was inaccurate. According to FAO's FishFinder, for the species *Engraulis ringens* (Jenyns, 1842) the Spanish name "anchoveta" is more appropriate and should replace therefore "anchoa" in Section 1.1.1 of the Spanish version of Codex Standard for Fish Oils (CODEX STAN 329-2017).

Discussion

10. Though the number of responses by six Codex members may seem to be small, major producing and processing countries did provide comments, and the quantity of fish oil covered by the comments is significant. In that respect it is important to recall that the eWG reporting to the 24th Session of CCFO (CX/FO 15/24/3) considered trade volumes in specific fish oils as high if > 10'000 tons/year, as medium if between 1'000 - 10'000 tons/year, and as low if < 1'000 tons/year. The annual quantities for anchovy oil reported at that occasion to the 2015 eWG were for production 159'704 tons/year and for export 157'053 tons/year.

11. Codex members did not report any significant trade problems resulting from the application of the new standard. Notably, one member reported minor deviations from the fatty acid profile listed for Krill oils in the Codex Standard for some consignments, but stated that those had not caused any difficulties in trade.

12. Comments by several Codex members acknowledged the positive effects of the adopted standard on trade with fish oils.

13. The Codex Standard for Fish Oils (CODEX STAN 329-2017) was adopted by the Commission in July 2017, and the Circular Letter CL 2017/74-FO requesting information about the impact of the adopted standard was issued in August 2017 with a deadline for providing comments one year later (by 31 August 2018). More time may be needed for Codex members to implement the new standard into national or regional regulations and to monitor the impact of the new standard.

14. Specifically, the need of appropriate traceability tools to certify the origin of fish oils and the question whether fatty acid profiles alone are sufficient to prove the origin of an oil may be discussed in future by CCFO and, as appropriate, the CCFICS. Such discussion would benefit from a significant longer experience of application of the standard and a more substantial analytical data set.

15. The comment by one member about the appropriate Spanish name for "anchovy" requires further consideration by the CCFO.

Recommendations

16. In view of the comments provided in response to CL 2017/74-FO, the CCFO may wish to consider the following conclusions and recommendations:

- a. The monitoring of possible effects of the newly adopted standard on trade did not identify any difficulties associated with the implementation of the standard.
- b. Identification of named fish oils by fatty acid profiles was not considered to be a problem by any of the comments given in response to the Circular Letter.
- c. The time period for which comments have been provided is short (one year); a considerably longer time period (e.g. five or ten years) may be needed to improve significantly the quality and quantity of the data base to assess the effects of the standard.
- d. The Spanish name for "anchovy oil" should be changed from "Aceite de anchoa" to "Aceite de anchoveta".

Synopsis of information and data received

Member	Application of standard by	Named fish oil Section of standard	Traded volume (tons)	Reason for application of Standard	Nonconformity observed?	Effects on trade? Further comments
Argentina	Stakeholder	2.2	42	Domestic control	No	-
Argentina	Stakeholder	-	~ 800	Domestic control	No	-
Chile	Stakeholder	Anchovy oil	11'026 (2017)	Import control	No	No history of application of the standard with respect to the fatty acid profile is reported. It can be inferred that no antecedents have been reported for the short time of application of this norm of the species of origin of the fish oil.
Chile	Stakeholder	Fish oil (mixture of several species)	12'621 (2017)	Import control	No	
Ecuador	Government	-	-	-	-	Ecuador, as an active member of the Technical Committee on Fats and Oils - CCFO, expresses its gratitude to all the countries that worked and contributed to the elaboration of the "NORM FOR FISH OIL CXS 329-2017" and recognizes that the adoption of this standard has generated a positive contribution with respect to the guidelines, standards and recommendations elaborated with the purpose of contributing to the protection of the health of the consumer and promoting fair practices in the fish oil trade; However, the country reports that it does not currently produce specified fish oils (anchovy oil, tuna oil, Krill oil, Atlantic tarpon oil, salmon oil) and specified fish liver oils (cod liver oil), so it has no data on this.
Japan	Stakeholder	Anchovy oil		Import control	No	No particular effects on trade
Japan	Stakeholder	Tuna oil		Import control	No	
Norway	Government/ stakeholder	Anchovy oil	21'000 (2017: mainly crude, imported) 32'000 (2017: mainly refined, exported)	Import / domestic control	-	In 2017 and first half of 2018 we have not received any reports of negative effects on trade caused by the Codex Standard.

Member	Application of standard by	Named fish oil Section of standard	Traded volume (tons)	Reason for application of Standard	Nonconformity observed?	Effects on trade? Further comments
Norway	Government/ stakeholder	Krill oil	1'000 (<i>annual export</i>)	Import / domestic control	Minor	In 2017, there have been some minor deviations from the fatty acid profile listed for Krill oils in the Codex Standard for some consignments, but those have not caused any difficulties for trade. Supplementary information has been taken into account. In contrary, Norwegian Krill oil industry has experienced with trade, as a consequence of the changes in the contaminants standard limiting the ML for arsenic in fish oils covered by the fish oil standard to inorganic arsenic
Norway	Government/ stakeholder	Cod liver oil	300 (<i>2017: import</i>) 1'000 (<i>2017: export</i>)	Import / domestic control	-	In 2017 and first half of 2018 we have not received any reports of negative effects on trade caused by the Codex Standard.
Norway	Government/ stakeholder	Salmon oil	~ 3'000 (<i>annual export</i>)	Import / domestic control	-	In 2017 and first half of 2018 we have not received any reports of negative effects on trade caused by the Codex Standard.
Peru	Stakeholder	Anchovy oil ("anchoa")	5'188 (<i>2015</i>)	Domestic control	-	Allows the identification of the species of origin of the fish oil
Peru	Stakeholder	Anchovy oil ("anchoveta")	8'021 (<i>2015</i>)	Domestic control	-	
Peru	Stakeholder	Anchovy oil ("anchoveta")	23'998 (<i>2016</i>)	Domestic control	-	
Peru	Stakeholder	Anchovy oil ("anchoveta")	42'118 (<i>2017</i>)	Domestic control	-	

Form for responses to CL 2017/74-FO

CL 2017/74-FO

2

Named fish oil (as in section 2.1 or 2.3 of Standard)	Traded Volume (tons)	Value of traded product	Application of Standard by (select/tick as appropriate)		Reason for the application of Standard (select / tick as appropriate)		Is there any Nonconformity identified? (select / tick as appropriate)		What is the type of nonconformity identified?	State any positive and or negative effects on trade in relation to the application of the Standard, specifically on the application of Table 1 to verify fulfillment with section 2.1 and 2.3 of the Standard.	Further/additional comments
			Government	Stakeholder	Import Control	Domestic Control	YES	NO			