

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-fourth Session
Geneva, Switzerland, 4-9 July 2011

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables
(REP11/PFV, para. 8, Appendix II)

Brazil

Brazil supports the adoption of the proposed amendment.

Cuba

Cuba apoya la propuesta de enmienda al mandato de este Comité y la redacción que se presenta en el Apéndice II, párrafo 8.

Cuba supports the proposal for amendment to the mandate of this Committee as presented in Appendix II, paragraph 8.

Mexico

Mexico no tiene comentarios.

Mexico has no comments.

International Council of Beverage Associations (ICBA)

The International Council of Beverages Associations (ICBA) is a nongovernmental organization that represents the interests of the worldwide nonalcoholic beverage industry. The members of ICBA produce, distribute, and sell a variety of water or juice-based beverages, such as soft drinks, juice-drinks, energy drinks, sports drinks, bottled waters and ready-to-drink coffees and teas. ICBA is pleased to comments on the proposed amendment to the terms of reference of the CCPFV (para. 8 and Appendix II of REP11/PFV).

Proposed amendment to the CCPFV terms of reference

The 32nd Session of the Commission (2009) requested the CCPFV to review its terms of reference to consider the inclusion of fruit and vegetable juices (ALINORM 09/32/REP, para. 228). ICBA notes that the CCPFV discussed a broader terms of reference than what the Commission originally requested. The CCPFV is proposing the following amendment to its terms of reference (REF11/PFV/Appendix II):

“To elaborate worldwide standards and related texts for all types of processed fruits and vegetables, including but not limited to canned, dried and frozen products as well as fruit and vegetable juices and nectars and related products”

The proposed amendment is even broader than the original terms of reference of the *ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices that only included work on “*standards and guidelines for fruit and vegetable juices and related products, giving preference to general standards*” (Report of the 23rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, page 108 of the English version).

While the Commission requested the CCPFV to consider only including fruit and vegetable juices in its terms of reference, ICBA could support also including their nectars considering that fruit nectars are included in the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CODEX STAN 247-2005).

However, we believe that adding the wording “*related products*” makes the terms of reference of the CCPFV too broad. The proposed amendment already led the CCPFV in its 25th session to initiate a discussion paper on water-based flavoured drinks. Such products clearly are outside the terms of reference of the CCPFV (“processed fruits and vegetables”, emphasis added) as they are not processed food commodities being products that are compounded from multiple ingredients, one of which may be fruit juice.

We respectfully suggest that the Commission consider revising the proposed amendment to delete the wording “*and related products*”.

We suggest the following alternate wording for consideration of the 34th Session of the Commission:

“To elaborate worldwide standards and related texts for all types of processed fruits and vegetables, including but not limited to canned, dried and frozen products as well as fruit and vegetable juices and ~~their nectars and related products~~”

(wording highlighted in **bold** denotes added wording, ~~strike through~~ denotes deleted wording)

International Council of Grocery Manufacturer Associations (ICGMA)

The International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Associations (ICGMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed amendment to the terms of reference of the CCPFV (paragraph 8 and Appendix II of REP11/PFV). ICGMA, a recognized INGO before the Codex Alimentarius Commission, represents the interests of the consumer packaged goods industry including several hundred food companies that trade food products globally. In this regard, ICGMA strongly supports the work of Codex Alimentarius and promotes the harmonization of scientific standards and policies concerned with health, safety, packaging, and labeling of foods and beverages.

Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the CCPFV:

The CCPFV was asked to review its terms of reference by the 32nd Session of the Commission (2009) to consider the inclusion of fruit and vegetable juices (ALINORM 09/23/REP, paragraph 228).

“To elaborate worldwide standards and related texts for all types of processed fruits and vegetables, including but not limited to canned, dried and frozen products as well as fruit and vegetable juices and nectars and related products.”

The proposed amendment is broader than the original terms of reference for the CCPFV which included work on the “development of worldwide standards for all types of processed fruits and vegetables, excluding fruit and vegetable juices and related products.” The proposed amendment is also more extensive than the terms of reference for the dissolved Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices which included work on “fruit and vegetable juices and related products”. (CX/PFV 10/25/2)

Including “related products” makes the terms of reference too broad in scope. The terms of reference should be clear and specifically indicate food products and not an all encompassing group of “related products”. The proposed amendment has already allowed for a discussion paper on flavored water-based drinks to be initiated during the 25th session of the CCPFV. These types of products are clearly outside of the terms of reference of the CCPFV and they are not processed products made entirely from fruits or vegetable juices.

We respectively suggest that the Commission consider revising the proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference by removing the wording “and related products”.