

C O D E X A L I M E N T A R I U S

INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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STANDARD FOR NAMED ANIMAL FATS

CXS 211-1999

Adopted in 1999. Amended in 2009, 2013, 2015, 2019, 2021, 2023 and 2024.

2024 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-seventh Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in November 2024, amendments were made in Section 7.2 Labelling of non-retail containers.

2023 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-sixth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in November 2023, amendments were made in Section 8. Methods of analysis and sampling.

1. SCOPE

This standard applies to the animal fats described in Section 2 presented in a state for human consumption.

2. DESCRIPTION

2.1 Lard

Pure rendered lard is the fat rendered from fresh, clean, sound fatty tissues from swine (*Sus scrofa*) in good health, at the time of slaughter, and fit for human consumption. The tissues do not include bones, detached skin, head skin, ears, tails, organs, windpipes, large blood vessels, scrap fat, skimmings, settlings, pressings, and the like, and are reasonably free from muscle tissues and blood.

Lard subject to processing may contain refined lard, lard stearin and hydrogenated lard, or be subject to processes of modification provided that it is clearly labelled.

2.2 Rendered pork fat

Rendered pork fat is the fat rendered from the tissues and bones of swine (*Sus scrofa*) in good health, at the time of slaughter, and fit for human consumption. It may contain fat from bones (properly cleaned), from detached skin, from head skin, from ears, from tails and from other issues fit for human consumption.

Rendered pork fat subject to processing may also contain refined lard, refined rendered pork fat, hydrogenated lard, hydrogenated rendered pork fat, lard stearin and rendered pork fat stearin provided that it is clearly labelled.

2.3 Premier jus (oleo stock) is the product obtained by rendering at low heat the fresh fat (killing fat) of heart, caul, kidney and mesentery collected at the time of slaughter of bovine animals in good health at the time of slaughter and fit for human consumption, as well as cutting fats.

2.4 Edible tallow

Edible tallow (dripping) is the product obtained by rendering the clean, sound, fatty tissues (including trimming and cutting fats), attendant muscles and bones of bovine animals and/or sheep (*Ovis aries*) in good health at the time of slaughter and fit for human consumption.

Edible tallow subject to processing may contain refined edible tallow, provided that it is clearly labelled.

3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

Gas-liquid chromatography (GLC) ranges of fatty acid composition (expressed as percentages)

Samples falling within the appropriate ranges specified below are in compliance with this standard.

	Lard rendered pork fat	Premier jus tallow
C6:0	< 0.5 in total	< 0.5 in total
C8:0		
C10:0		
C12:0		
C14:0	1.0–2.5	2–6
C14:ISO	< 0.1	< 0.3
C14:1	< 0.2	0.5–1.5
C15:0	< 0.2	0.2–1.0
C15:ISO	< 0.1	< 1.5 in total
C15:ANTI ISO	< 0.1	
C16:0	20–30	20–30
C16:1	2.0–4.0	1–5
C16:ISO	< 0.1	< 0.5
C16:2	< 0.1	< 1.0
C17:0	< 1	0.5–2.0
C17:1	< 1	< 1.0
C17:ISO	< 0.1	< 1.5 in total
C17:ANTI ISO	< 0.1	
C18:0	8–22	15–30
C18:1	35–55	30–45
C18:2	4–12	1–6
C18:3	< 1.5	< 1.5
C20:0	< 1.0	< 0.5
C20:1	< 1.5	< 0.5
C20:2	< 1.0	< 0.1
C20:4	< 1.0	< 0.5
C22:0	< 0.1	< 0.1
C22:1	< 0.5	not detected

4. FOOD ADDITIVES

Antifoaming agents, antioxidants and colours used in accordance with Table 1 and Table 2 of the *General standard for food additives* (CXS 192-1995)¹ in food category 02.1.3 (Lard, tallow, fish oil, and other animal fats) are acceptable for use in foods conforming to this standard.

5. CONTAMINANTS

The products covered by this standard shall comply with the maximum levels of the *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed* (CXS 193-1995).²

5.1 Pesticide residues

The products covered by the provisions of this standard shall comply with those maximum residue limits established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for these commodities.

6. HYGIENE

It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the *General principles of food hygiene* (CXC 1-1969),³ and other relevant Codex texts such as codes of hygienic practice and codes of practice.

The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the *Principles and guidelines for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria related to foods* (CXG 21-1997).⁴

7. LABELLING

7.1 Name of the food

The product shall be labelled in accordance with the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985).⁵ The name of the fat shall conform to the descriptions given in Section 2 of this standard.

7.2 Labelling on non-retail containers

The labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021).

8. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

For checking the compliance with this standard, the methods of analysis and sampling contained in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999)⁶ relevant to the provisions in this standard, shall be used.

OTHER QUALITY AND COMPOSITION FACTORS

These quality and composition factors are supplementary information to the essential composition and quality factors of the standard. A product, which meets the essential quality and composition factors but does not meet these supplementary factors, may still conform to the standard.

1. QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS

Colour

rendered pork fat:	white when solid
lard:	white to cream
premier jus:	creamy white to pale yellow
edible tallow:	off white to pale yellow

Odour and taste:

characteristic and free from foreign and rancid odour and taste.

Maximum level

Matter volatile at 105 °C:	0.3%
Insoluble impurities:	0.05%
Sodium soap content:	
lard	nil
premier jus	nil
rendered pork fat	0.005%
edible tallow	0.005%
Iron (Fe):	1.5 mg/kg
Copper (Cu):	0.4 mg/kg
Acid value:	
lard	1.3 mg KOH/g fat = ffa max 0.65%
premier jus	2.0 mg KOH/g fat = ffa max 1.00%
rendered pork fat	2.5 mg KOH/g fat = ffa max 1.25%
edible tallow	2.5 mg KOH/g fat = ffa max 1.25%
Peroxide value:	up to 10 milliequivalents active oxygen/kg fat

2. CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

	Lard	Rendered pork fat	Premier jus	Tallow
Relative density (40 °C/water at 20 °C)	0.896–0.904	0.894–0.906	0.893–0.904	0.894–0.904
Refractive index (N D 40 °C)	1.448–1.460	1.448–1.461	1.448–1.460	1.448–1.460
Titre (°C)	32–45	32–45	42.5–47	40–49
Saponification value (mg KOH/g fat)	192–203	192–203	190–200	190–202
Iodine value (Wijs)	55–65	60–72	36–47	40–53
Unsaponifiable matter (g/kg)	≤ 10	≤ 12	≤ 10	≤ 12

3. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

For checking the compliance with this standard, the methods of analysis and sampling contained in the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999)⁶ relevant to the provisions in this standard, shall be used.

NOTES

¹ FAO and WHO. 1995. *General standard for food additives*. Codex Alimentarius Standard, No. CXS 192-1995. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

² FAO and WHO. 1995. *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed*. Codex Alimentarius Standard, No. CXS 193-1995. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

³ FAO and WHO. 1969. *General principles of food hygiene*. Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice, No. CXC 1-1969. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

⁴ FAO and WHO. 1997. *Principles and guidelines for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria related to foods*. Codex Alimentarius Guideline, No. CXG 21-1997. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

⁵ FAO and WHO. 1985. *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods*. Codex Alimentarius Standard, No. CXS 1-1985. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.

⁶ FAO and WHO. 1999. *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling*. Codex Alimentarius Standard, No. CXS 234-1999. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.