

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 9

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

41st Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 2 - 6 July 2018

COMMENTS ON AMENDMENTS TO CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

Comments of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana

Amendments to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods (CXC 75-2015)
(REP 18/FH Para 6)

Comments of Sierra Leone, Liberia

SIERRA LEONE

Main issues:

The sections on hygiene in standards developed by CCSCH for culinary herbs will refer to the Hygienic Practice for Low Moisture Foods in particular, its Annex on Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs.

At CCFH47, the Committee agreed to ask the Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs to clarify whether dried aromatic herbs included dried culinary herbs. The CCSCH recalled the discussions at CAC36 (2013), that at the establishment of the CCSCH, it was decided that this "Committee for Spices and Culinary Herbs" is limited to herbs for culinary purposes and not for use as food additives or for other purposes.

The CCSCH therefore agreed to inform the CCFH that the term "herbs" was broad and included products beyond the scope of the CCSCH; and was of the view that the term "culinary herbs" was more appropriate for use in the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low Moisture Foods (CAC / RCP 75-2015) Annex III on spices and aromatic herbs.

Noting the clarifications provided by CCSCH3, CCFH49 requested the Secretariat to replace "herbs" with "culinary herbs" in the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low Moisture Foods (CXC 75-2015) and adopt by CAC41.

RECOMMENDATION POSITION

Sierra Leone recommend the adoption of the editorial changes to replace "aromatic herbs" by "culinary herbs" in the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods (CXC 75-2015).

LIBERIA

Background/Issues

The sections on hygiene in standards developed by CCSCH for culinary herbs will refer to the Hygienic Practice for Low Moisture Foods in particular, its Annex on Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs. At CCFH47, the Committee agreed to ask the Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs to clarify whether dried aromatic herbs included dried culinary herbs. The CCSCH recalled the discussions at CAC36 (2013), that at the establishment of the CCSCH, it was decided that this "Committee for Spices and Culinary Herbs" is limited to herbs for culinary purposes and not for use as food additives or for other purposes.

The CCSCH therefore agreed to inform the CCFH that the term "herbs" was broad and included products beyond the scope of the CCSCH; and was of the view that the term "culinary herbs" was more appropriate for use in the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low Moisture Foods (CAC / RCP 75-2015) Annex III on spices and aromatic herbs.

Noting the clarifications provided by CCSCH3, CCFH49 requested the Secretariat to replace "herbs" with "culinary herbs" in the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low Moisture Foods (CXC 75-2015) and adopt by CAC41.

Recommendations:

Liberia supports the adoption of the editorial changes to replace “aromatic herbs” by “culinary herbs” in the Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods (CXC 75-2015).

Amendment to the note for the ML on inorganic arsenic in rice (consequential amendment)
(REP 18/CF Para 84)

Comments of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana

SIERRA LEONE

Main issues:

CCCF12 agreed to the proposal of the EWG that countries could screen for total mercury (an easier assay) and only analyze for methylmercury if the total mercury level was above the ML value.

RECOMMENDATION POSITION

Sierra Leone support the decision to amend the note for arsenic in rice.

LIBERIA

CCCF12 agreed to the proposal of the EWG that countries could screen for total mercury (an easier assay) and only analyze for methyl-mercury if the total mercury level was above the ML value.

Background/Issue

A COP for the prevention and reduction of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls) contamination in food and feed was adopted in 2006.

Since that time, new contamination pathways have been found which require that additional management measures be added to the COP. More information is also now available on the carry-over of dioxins and PCBs in foods and feeds of animal origin. JECFA 80 (2015) performed a risk assessment on the toxicity of non-dioxin like (NDL) PCBs and the outcome needs to be incorporated into the COP. Finally, most of the recommended practices to reduce DL-PCBs are also applicable to NDL-PCBs, so the term DL-PCBs could be replaced with the general term PCBs which includes DL-PCBs and NDL-PCBs

Recommendations

Liberia supports the decision to adopt the revised COP at Step 5/8

GHANA

POSITION: Ghana supports the decision to amend the note for arsenic in rice

RATIONALE: The note was based on the one for inorganic arsenic in rice.

Revised food-additive sections of Standards for Milk Powders and Cream Powder (CXS 207- 1999), a Blend of Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat in Powdered Form (CXS 251-2006); and Edible Casein Products (CXS 290-1995), REP18/FA 30(ii)

POSITION: We support the recommendation to align the commodity standards to the GSFA

RATIONALE: This is in compliance with the Codex procedural manual and will ensure that GSFA is the single reference for food additives.