

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 1

CX/FFV 06/13/1
July 2006

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

13th Session
Mexico City, Mexico, 25 - 29 September 2006

To be held at Sala "José Maria Morelos y Pavón" of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs,
Mexico City, Mexico,
from Monday, 25 September at 09:00 to Friday 29 September 2006

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Agenda Item	Subject Matter	Document Identification
1.	Adoption of the Provisional Agenda	CX/FFV 06/13/1
2.	a) Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies	CX/FFV 06/13/2
	b) Matters arising from other International Organizations on the Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	CX/FFV 06/13/3
	c) UN/ECE Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	CX/FFV 06/13/4
	i. UN/ECE Standard for Table Grapes (FFV-19)	
	ii. UN/ECE Standard for Tomatoes (FFV-36)	
	iii. UN/ECE Standard for Apples (FFV-50)	
	d) Proposed Layout for Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	CX/FFV 06/13/5
	- Comments	CX/FFV 06/13/5-Add.1
3.	Consideration of draft Codex Standards at Step 7	
	a) Draft Codex Standard for Tomatoes	ALINORM 05/28/35-App. II
	b) Draft Sections 3 - Provisions concerning Sizing and 4.2 - Size Tolerances (draft Codex Standard for Tomatoes)	CX/FFV 06/13/6
	- Comments at Step 6	CX/FFV 06/13/6-Add.1
	c) Draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes	ALINORM 05/28/35-App. IV
4.	Consideration of proposed draft Codex Standards and Related Texts at Step 4	
	a) Proposed draft Sections 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements and 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight (draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes)	CX/FFV 06/13/7
	- Comments at Step 3	CX/FFV 06/13/7-Add.1
	b) Proposed draft Codex Standard for Apples	CX/FFV 06/13/8
	- Comments at Step 3	CX/FFV 06/13/8-Add.1

Agenda Item	Subject Matter	Document Identification
c)	Proposed draft Codex Standard for Bitter Cassava	CX/FFV 06/13/9
	- Comments at Step 3	CX/FFV 06/13/9-Add.1
d)	Proposed draft Codex Guidelines for the Quality Control of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	CX/FFV 06/13/10
	- Comments at Step 3	CX/FFV 06/13/10-Add.1
5.	Proposals for Amendments to the Priority List for the Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	ALINORM 05/28/35-App.VII
	- Comments (CL 2005/25-FFV)	CX/FFV 06/13/11
6.	Other Business	
7.	Date and Place of the Next Session	
8.	Adoption of the Report	

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Adoption of the Provisional Agenda (CX/FFV 06/13/1)

The Committee will be invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session.

Item 2 (a) Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies (CX/FFV 06/13/2)

Matters referred/of interest to the Committee arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other relevant Codex Committees and Task Forces are contained in the working document.

Item 2 (b) Matters arising from other International Organizations on the Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CX/FFV 06/13/3)

Matters referred/of interest to the Committee arising from the *Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development* and its *Specialized Section Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* and the as well as the *OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruits and Vegetables* are contained in the working document.

Item 2 (c) UN/ECE Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CX/FFV 06/13/4)

- (i) UN/ECE Standard for Table Grapes (FFV-19)
- (ii) UN/ECE Standard for Tomatoes (FFV-36)
- (iii) UN/ECE Standard for Apples (FFV-50)

The UN/ECE standards for the above-mentioned produce have been circulated by the Codex Secretariat as directed by the 43rd Session of the Executive Committee, namely: *“The Executive Committee requested that relevant UN/ECE Standards be distributed as working documents for the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables when like products were being considered”* (ALINORM 97/3, para. 15).

Item 2 (d) Proposed Layout for Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CX/FFV 06/13/5)

The 12th Session of the Committee considered the proposed Layout for Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and agreed to an introductory statement to clarify its nature. The Committee had an exchange of views on certain provisions and agreed on some amendments. However, in view of its heavy Agenda, the Committee agreed to suspend the discussion and to entrust the Codex Secretariat with the revision of the document based on the comments submitted and the discussion held. The revised Layout would then be circulated for comments and consideration by the next session of the Committee.

The proposed revised Layout for Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables has been circulated for comments under CX/FFV 06/13/5. Comments submitted are contained in working document CX/FFV 06/13/5-Add.1.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS AT STEP 7

Item 3 (a) Draft Codex Standard for Tomatoes (ALINORM 05/28/35-Appendix II)

The 12th Session of the Committee considered the draft Codex Standard for Tomatoes and agreed on a number of changes. The Committee recognized the important progress and decisions made on the major sections of the draft Standard. However, the Committee decided to retain the draft Standard at Step 7, with the exception of Sections 3 - Provisions concerning Sizing and 4.2 - Size Tolerances, on the understanding that additional comments would not be requested on the agreed sections.

This decision was taken with the understanding that the next session of the Committee would restrict its discussion to the finalization of Sections 3 and 4.2 so that a single document could be forwarded to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final adoption at Step 8 (see Item 3 (b) below).

Item 3 (b) Draft Sections 3 - Provisions concerning Sizing and 4.2 - Size Tolerances (draft Codex Standard for Tomatoes) (CX/FFV 06/13/6)

The 12th Session of the Committee considered provisions concerning sizing and the corresponding size tolerances for tomatoes. The Committee had a long discussion on sizing provisions due to the different positions on the need to keep this type of provision in the draft Standard vis-à-vis Codex's aim to ensure fair practices in international food trade.

As a compromise solution, the Committee agreed to retain the entire Section 3 in square brackets. In addition, it agreed to collect data on different sizing used in Codex member countries by means of a Circular Letter with a view to considering a proposal for a common denominator to the different sizing systems in place. Consequently, Section 4.2 was put in square brackets pending resolution of the discussion on Section 3.

The Committee further agreed that a working group led by the European Community would prepare a revised version of Sections 3 and 4.2 based on the comments submitted in response to CL 2005/25-FFV, as well as the discussion held, for comments and consideration by the next session of the Committee (see Item 3 (a) above).

The revised draft Sections 3 - Provisions concerning Sizing and 4.2 - Size Tolerances of the draft Codex Standard for Tomatoes have been circulated for comments at Step 6 under CX/FFV 06/13/6. Comments submitted are contained in working document CX/FFV 06/13/6-Add.1.

Item 3 (c) Draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes (ALINORM 05/28/35-Appendix IV)

The 12th Session of the Committee considered the draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes and made a number of consequential amendments to bring the text into line with previous decisions taken applicable across Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Committee reasserted its previous decision to retain the draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes at Step 7 pending finalization of the sections on maturity requirements and minimum bunch weight with the understanding that no additional comments would be requested on the agreed sections.

This decision was taken on the understanding that the next session of the Committee would focus its discussion on the finalization of Sections 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements and 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight so that a complete document could be forwarded to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final adoption at Step 8 (see Item 4 (a) below).

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED DRAFT CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 4

Item 4 (a) Proposed draft Sections 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements and 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight (draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes) (CX/FFV 06/13/7)

The 12th Session of the Committee considered maturity requirements (Section 2.1.2) and minimum bunch weight together with a list of small-berry varieties (Section 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight & Annex on small-berry varieties) as follows:

Maturity Requirements: The Committee considered a simplified approach by identifying two maturity parameters i.e. soluble solids content (Brix value) and sugar/acid ratio. The Committee agreed that minimum Brix values could be set for seedless varieties and for all other varieties along with a single minimum sugar/acid ratio for all varieties. Consequently, maturity requirements vis-à-vis varieties or group of varieties listed in an Annex was discontinued.

Minimum Bunch Weight: The Committee had an exchange of views on the usefulness of having an Annex listing small-berry varieties and the difficulties of updating such a list. The Committee noted that the main aim of the list was to distinguish small-berry varieties vis-à-vis the minimum bunch weight for these varieties. The Committee agreed, in principle, to discontinue the consideration of the Annex and to consider a simplified approach by establishing a single minimum bunch weight for all varieties.

The Committee further agreed that a final decision on the above matters would be taken after consultation of Codex members/observers with their national associations/producers.

The Committee decided to reconvene the working group led by Chile to revise Sections 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements and 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight based on this new approach and the comments, including additional approaches, submitted in response to CL 2005/25-FFV. Consequential amendments to other sections of the draft Standard should also be considered by the working group when revising the above sections.

The revised proposed draft Sections 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements and 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight of the draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes have been circulated for comments at Step 3 under CX/FFV 06/13/7. Comments submitted are contained in working document CX/FFV 06/13/7-Add.1.

Item 4 (b) Proposed draft Codex Standard for Apples (CX/FFV 06/13/8)

The 12th Session of the Committee made some general and specific comments on the proposed draft Codex Standard for Apples. However, in view of time constraints and the extensive comments received, the Committee suspended the consideration of the document and consequently, it returned the proposed draft Standard to Step 2 while reconvening the working group led by the United States of America to revise the text on the basis of the discussion held and the comments submitted, as well as in light of the developments in the UN/ECE Standard for Apples, for comments and consideration at its next Session.

The proposed draft Codex Standard for Apples has been circulated for comments at Step 3 under CX/FFV 06/13/8. Comments submitted are contained in working document CX/FFV 06/13/8-Add.1.

Item 4 (c) Proposed draft Codex Standard for Bitter Cassava (CX/FFV 06/13/9)

The 12th Session of the Committee examined a proposal for a partial revision of the Codex Standard for Sweet Cassava to include varieties of cassava with more than 50 mg/kg of hydrogen cyanide considered safe for human consumption. The Committee agreed to request the Codex Alimentarius Commission the approval of this new work. Once approved, a working group led by Tonga would prepare a proposal for consideration by the next session of the Committee.

The 28th Session of the Commission noted the request of the Committee to revise the Standard in force namely Sections 1 - Definition of Produce and 3 - Provisions concerning Sizing including consequential amendments to relevant sections of the Standard derived from the revisions to the aforesaid sections to accommodate other varieties of cassava fit for human consumption.

The Commission noted divergent views on how to proceed with the standardization of varieties of cassava other than those covered by the Standard namely: The inclusion of bitter varieties of cassava might have major implications to the provisions for sweet varieties of cassava presently covered by the Standard and coexistence of both varieties in the same Standard might create confusion as they were used for different purposes. In contrast, the inclusion of bitter varieties of cassava might assist in avoiding or reducing technical barriers to trade in these products.

The Commission agreed to initiate work on the standardization of bitter varieties of cassava, as a separate Standard, with the understanding that the Committee might consider, at a later stage, the possibility of having a single Standard applicable to both types of cassava, consistent with the Codex approach to develop more horizontal and inclusive standards when possible.

The proposed draft Codex Standard for Bitter Cassava has been circulated for comments at Step 3 under CX/FFV 06/13/9. Comments submitted are contained in working document CX/FFV 06/13/9-Add.1.

Item 4 (d) Proposed draft Codex Guidelines for the Quality Control of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CX/FFV 06/13/10)

In view of time constraints, the 12th Session of the Committee suspended the consideration of the proposed draft Codex Guidelines for the Quality Control of Fresh Fruits and agreed to return it to Step 2 for redrafting by a working group led by Canada, comments and consideration at its next session.

The proposed draft Codex Guidelines for the Quality Control of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables has been circulated for comments at Step 3 under CX/FFV 06/13/10. Comments submitted are contained in working document CX/FFV 06/13/10-Add.1.

Item 5 Proposals for Amendments to the Priority List for the Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (ALINORM 05/28/35-Appendix VII)

The Committee may propose the removal and/or inclusion of new produce for future work taking into account the *Proposals to Undertake New Work or to Revise a Standard* (Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual, Part 2 Critical Review) and the work already done by other international standardization organizations in this field. The new work undertaken shall be approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission taking into account the outcome of the Critical Review conducted by the Executive Committee.

The Priority List for the Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables has been circulated for comments under CL 2005/25-FFV. Comments submitted are contained in working document CX/FFV 06/13/11.

Item 6 Other Business

In accordance with Rule VI.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual) "... any Member of the Commission may propose the inclusion of specific items in the Agenda with respect to matters of an urgent nature...".

Item 7 Date and Place of the Next Session

The Committee will be advised of the tentative dates of the next Session.

Item 8 Adoption of the Report

The Committee shall adopt the report of its 13th Session, based on a draft provided by the Codex Secretariat.

Note: Working documents as prepared will be uploaded onto the Codex website.
They can be downloaded and printed by accessing the following URL:
<http://www.codexalimentarius.org/>

Delegates are kindly requested to bring with them to the meeting all documents which have been distributed, as the number of additional copies which can be made available at the meeting is limited.