

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME****CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION****34th Session****Geneva, Switzerland, 4-9 July 2011****AMENDMENTS TO CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS****1 BACKGROUND**

In this document the Codex Secretariat presents a number of amendments to Codex standards and related texts to improve their editorial consistency, correctness, legibility and clarity. In some cases proposed amendments originate from subsidiary bodies, in others from a regular review by the Secretariat. They may be of a horizontal nature following earlier decisions of the Commission or affect individual texts only. In some cases the revocation of texts is proposed if it is felt that the text would be no longer useful or has been superseded or replaced by other texts.

2 HORIZONTAL EDITORIAL AMENDMENTS TO ADOPTED CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**2.1 Titles of “Codes of Practice”**

2.1.1 Several Codex codes of practice are presently called:

- “Recommended International Code of Practice ...”
- “Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice ...”

As all Codex codes of practice that are not marked as “regional”, are by definition “international” and as all Codex standards and related texts are “recommendations” it is proposed to delete the words “Recommended” and “International” from the titles.

2.1.2 For regional codes it is proposed to amend their titles to read: “Regional Code (name of the region)”

2.2 Titles of Guidelines

For regional Guidelines it is proposed to amend the titles to read: “Regional Guidelines (name of the region)”

3 AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFIC STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**3.1 COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

The Committee agreed to request the Commission to remove footnote 3 regarding the temporary endorsement of section 3.2.17 (surface active agents), 3.2.18 (pesticides and PCBs), 3.2.19 (mineral oil) and 3.2.20 (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons) in the *Standard on Natural Mineral Waters* (CODEX STAN 108-1981) as these were considered quality parameters and did not require endorsement by CCCF (REP 11/CF paras 85 – 90).

3.1 COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

3.1.1 Section on Contaminants

The 32nd Session of the Commission (2009) agreed to refer the section on contaminants to the committees concerned when specific technical issues arose that required more than editorial changes.

The Committee on Fats and Oils recalled the decision taken at its last session to amend the section on contaminants in the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils, and noted that the maximum levels for lead and arsenic in fats and oils were included in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (GSCTFF). The Committee therefore agreed to revise the section on contaminants in all other standards for fats and oils to include the standard text in the Format of Commodity Standards in the Procedural Manual, with two paragraphs referring respectively to the GSCTFF and to MRLs for pesticide residues (REP 11/FO, para. 15).

The question on the provisions on halogenated solvents in the *Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils* is still under consideration in the Committee on Fats and Oils and the Committee on Contaminants in Foods.

3.1.2 References to voluntary application in Codex standards

Following the decision of the 32nd Session of the Commission to refer this matter to the relevant active committees, the Committee on Fats and Oils considered how to proceed with the statement on voluntary application in the appendices to the standards for fats and oils. The Committee could not come to a conclusion and agreed to ask for comments on two revised alternative statements to replace the current statement on voluntary application in the annexes of all standards for fats and oils, and on the provisions currently in Table 3 (desmethylsterols) and Table 4 (tocopherols and tocotrienols) of the Appendix in the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils and the possibility to include them into the main body of the standard for further consideration at the next session (REP 11/FO, paras. 9-14 and CL 2001/2-FO).

3.2 COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

The Commission is invited to request the Committee on Food Additives to consider the need to revoke or revise the following texts:

- Information on the Use of Food Additives in Foods (CAC/MISC 1-1989); and
- Guidelines for Simple Evaluation of Food Additive Intake (CAC/GL 03-1989).

3.3 COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

The Committee agreed to request the removal of section 4.4 of the *Standard for Natural Mineral Waters* (CODEX STAN 108-1981) as a consequence to the decision to include microbiological criteria in the Proposed draft Revision of the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters (CAC/RCP 33-1985) (REP 11/FH para. 115).

3.4 COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

The Committee discussed the proposal to amend the title of the Table in the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997) to read “Table of conditions for nutrient content claims” and agreed that in order to improve the clarity of the text, the Table should be placed in section 5. Nutrient Content Claims and that its title should read “Table of conditions for nutrient content claims” (REP11/FL, paras 49-50).

3.5 COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Section 5 of the following texts should be amended to replace references to revoked commodity specific codes of practice with the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 52-2003) and to align with the recommended wording of the Procedural Manual.

- *Standard for Quick Frozen Finfish, Uneviscerated and Eviscerated* (CODEX STAN 36-1981);
- *Standard for Canned Shrimps or Prawns* (CODEX STAN 37-1991);
- *Standard for Canned Tuna and Bonito* (CODEX STAN 70-1981);
- *Standard for Canned Crab Meat* (CODEX STAN 90-1981);
- *Standard for Quick Frozen Shrimps or Prawns* (CODEX STAN 92-1981);
- *Standard for Sardine and Sardine-Type Products* (CODEX STAN 94-1981);
- *Standard for Quick Frozen Lobsters* (CODEX STAN 95-1981);

- *Standard for Canned Finfish* (CODEX STAN 119-1981);
- *Standard for Quick Frozen Blocks of Fish Fillet, Minced Fish Flesh and Mixtures of Fillets and Minced Fish Flesh* (CODEX STAN 165-1989);
- *Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets – Breaded or in Batter* (CODEX STAN 166-1989);
- *Standard for Salted Fish and Dried Salted Fish of the Gadidae Family of Fishes* (CODEX STAN 167-1989);
- *Standard for Dried Shark Fins* (CODEX STAN 189-1993);
- *Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Fillets* (CODEX STAN 190-1995);
- *Standard for Quick Frozen Raw Squid* (CODEX STAN 191-1995);
- *Standard for Crackers from Marine and Freshwater Fish, Crustaceans and Molluscan Shellfish* (CODEX STAN 222-2001);
- *Standard for Boiled Dried Salted Anchovies* (CODEX STAN 236-2003); and
- *Standard for Salted Atlantic Herring and Salted Sprat* (CODEX STAN 244-2004)

3.6 COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

In revising the Standard for Avocado, the Committee agreed to remove the reference to “carefully picked” in Section 2.1.1 (Minimum Requirements) as compliance with this requirement cannot be verified at the point of inspection. In addition, the Committee noted the following considerations in support of this decision: the application of the Standard does not allow for differentiating each cause of physical damage of the fruit; Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables, including avocado, apply to produce “after preparation and packaging” therefore handling requirements for harvest/post-harvest processes are excluded from the standards; and handling at harvest/post harvest may result in skin defects which are appropriately dealt with in the quality classes.

Based on the above, the Committee agreed to introduce consequential amendments in all Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables including this provision for consistency (REP 11/FFV, paras. 33-34).

3.7 COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOOD

The following texts should be amended to correct the references to: *Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods* (CAC/GL 16-1993) and *Code of Practice for Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs* (CAC/RCP 38-1993), superseded by the *Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals* (CAC/GL 71-2009):

- *Code of Practice for Fishery and Fishery Products* (CAC/RCP 52-2003) - Section 6.3.2; and
- *Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat* (CAC/RCP 58-2005) - Footnote No.25
- *Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance* (CAC/RCP 61-2005) – Introduction (para. 1) and footnote No.6.

3.8 COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

In the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants* (CODEX STAN 72-1981) (section 6.1) and in the *Standard for Follow-up Formula* (CODEX STAN 156-1987) (section 6.3), it is proposed to replace the reference to the *Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children* (CAC/RCP 21-1979) with the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children* (CAC/RCP 66 - 2008), which superseded CAC/RCP 21-1979.