

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

CX/FA 08/40/2

February 2008

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fortieth Session

Beijing, China, 21-25 April 2008

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 30TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Matters for action

Strategic Plan 2008-2013 of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

1. The 30th Session of the Commission adopted the Strategic Plan 2008-2013. In view of this, the Committee **is invited** to review all the Activities presented in Part 2 Programme Areas and Planned Activities 2008-2013 relevant to its work and report back to the Commission on the outcome of its consideration.

2. In particular the Committee's attention is drawn to the following activities:

- Goal 1: Activity 1.1
- Goal 2: Activities 2.2, 2.3 and 2.5
- Goal 3: Activity 3.3
- Goal 4: Activity 4.1
- Goal 5: Activities 5.5 and 5.6

3. Further details on the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 can be found in the report of the meeting (ALINORM 07/30/REP, paras 131-138 and Appendix IX).

Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces

4. The 30th Session of the Commission considered 11 Proposals as contained in Circular Letter CL 2006/29-CAC. Due to time constraints, the Commission only made decisions regarding Proposal 1 (numbers of meetings), Proposal 2 (number of subsidiary bodies), Proposal 3 (interval of meetings), Proposal 4 (duration of meetings) and Proposal 8 (conversion of regional standards into world-wide standards) and agreed to request the 60th Session of the Executive Committee for further consideration of the other six Proposals.

5. The Committee **should draw attention** to the Proposal 3 (interval of meetings) and Proposal 4 (duration of meetings).

6. With regard to Proposal 3, as agreed by the Commission, the Committee **is invited** to consider adopting a longer interval with the understanding that a structured, effective inter-session working mechanism should then be put in place in accordance with the Guidelines on Physical Working Groups and on Electronic Working Groups.

7. With respect to Proposal 4 (duration of meetings), the Committee **should note** that the duration of a Codex session should be kept within seven days, including the pre-session meetings of working groups, if any, in order to keep its *proceedings* well focused, ensure transparency, and facilitate effective participation of the members, with the understanding that certain margin of flexibility should be allowed, depending on the workload of each subsidiary bodies.

8. Further details of the above discussion can be found in the report of meeting (ALINORM 07/30/REP, paras 144-161).

Matters for information

Amendments to the Procedural Manual

9. The Commission adopted the following proposed amendments and included them in the Procedural Manual¹:

- *Procedures for Consideration of the entry and Review of Food Additive Provisions in the General Standard for Food Additives;*
- *Amendments to the “Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants;*
- *Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Food Additives;*
- *Amendments to the Format of Codex Commodity Standards - Food Additives and Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees.*

10. Further details of the above discussion can be found in the report of meeting (ALINORM 07/30/REP, paras 29, 34, 36-37 and Appendix III).

Elaboration of new standards and related texts²

11. The Commission noted that project documents submitted to the 59th Session of the Executive Committee contained information that, while respecting the overall format as set out in the Procedural Manual, varied significantly in terms of quantity and quality, and therefore, endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to encourage Codex committees, task forces and Codex Members to prepare future project documents according to the format set out in the current revision of the Procedural Manual and provide sufficiently detailed, relevant information with particular regard to the evidence-based assessment against each of all the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities.

Guidelines on the Application of the “Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities applicable to Commodities³

12. The 60th Session of the Executive Committee agreed to append to its report the Guidelines on the Application of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities applicable to Commodities, which aim at providing guidance on what kind of information needs to be examined by the Executive Committee while performing the Critical Review. The Committee further agreed that these guidelines should be made widely available in order to assist Codex Members and Codex subsidiary bodies when preparing project documents.

¹ ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 35 and Appendix III

² ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 96

³ ALINORM 08/31/3, paras 4-9 and Appendix II

Standards and Related Texts adopted at Step 8, Step 5/8 and other adopted Standards and Related Texts⁴

13. The Commission adopted the following standards and related texts:

- Food Additives Provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (at Step 8 and Step 5/8);
- Amendments to the International Numbering System for Food Additives (at Step 5/8);
- Specifications for Identity and Purity of Food Additives arising from the 67th JECFA meeting (at Step 5/8);
- Amendment to the Annex to table 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives;
- Amendment to the General Standard for Food Additives – Entry in Food Category 02.1.1.

14. The following paragraphs provide additional information on relevant comments made and the decision taken by the Commission:

Draft and Proposed Draft Food Additive Provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)

15. The Commission noting the recommendations of the 59th Session of the Executive Committee, within the framework of the Critical Review, agreed that: (i) no consequential changes should be made to commodity standards at this stage when adopting food additive provisions in the GSFA, recognizing that inconsistencies would exist between the GSFA and commodity standards until the General Standard would be finalized; (ii) the food additive provisions in Annex 1 of CX/EXEC 09/59/2 be forwarded by the Codex Committee on Food Additive (CCFA) to active commodity committees as appropriate; and (iii) the CCFA give the highest priority to the completion of the GSFA.⁵

16. In view of the above decision and of the difficulty of the CCFA to simultaneously work on the completion of the GSFA and address the food additive provisions in the commodity standards, the Commission agreed to suspend the following decision taken at its 29th Session:

When provision for additives for inclusion into the GSFA result in amendments to additive provisions in Codex standards, consequential amendments should be made to the relevant standards and that the report of CCFAC should include a table showing the existing food additive provisions in Codex standards.⁶

17. The Commission adopted the draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA as proposed by the 39th Session of the CCFA, noting the reservation of the Delegation of Cuba with regard to the provisions for alitame (INS 956) in food category 01.1.2 “Dairy-based drinks, flavoured and/or fermented (e.g. chocolate milk, cocoa, eggnog, drinking yoghurt, whey-based drink)”.

Proposed Draft Amendments to the International Numbering (INS) System for Food Additives

18. The Commission noted that a number of amendments to the INS system adopted at the current session should be reflected in the food additive provisions of existing commodity standards and requested the Codex Secretariat to revise the INS numbers in commodity standards accordingly.

Adoption of the Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 5⁷**Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings (N03-2006) (with the exception of Section 4 and Annexes A and B)**

19. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Guidelines at Step 5 as proposed by the Committee and advanced them to Step 6, with the understanding that several translation issues in Spanish would be addressed by the next session of the Committee on Food Additives.

⁴ ALINORM 07/30/REP, paras 44-47 and Appendix IV

⁵ ALINORM 07/30/3, para. 8

⁶ ALINORM 06/29/41, para. 42, point (ii)

⁷ ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 82 and Appendix V

Revocation of existing Codex Standards and Related Texts⁸

20. The Commission approved the revocation from the Codex Alimentarius of the Codex Specifications of Identity and Purity of Food Additives, as recommended by the 39th CCFA.

Approval of new work for the elaboration of new standards and related texts⁹

The Commission approved the following new work by the CCFA:

- Revision of the Food Category System (FCS) of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (N11-2007)

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**Matters for action**

8th Session of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (Queenstown, New Zealand, 4-8 February 2008)¹⁰

21. The Committee **agreed to request** the CCFA to associate new functional classes with certain food additives in the *Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives*, as follows:

- “Stabilizer” to calcium orthophosphates (INS 341i, 341ii and 341iii), calcium polyphosphate (INS 452iv) and magnesium chloride (INS 511) and calcium sulphate (INS 516);
- “Stabilizer” and “Thickener” to microcrystalline cellulose (460i) and powdered cellulose (460ii);
- “Thickener” to potassium chloride (INS 508) and calcium chloride (INS 509).

Matters for information

29th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Germany, 12-16 November 2007)¹¹

22. The Committee noted the clarification of the Secretariat of JECFA regarding the applicability of ADI concept for infants below 12 weeks of age as presented in CRD 12 and agreed that there was no need to consider the food additives provisions at the Committee before JECFA and CCFA conclude their work on remaining food additive issues posed by the 28th Session of the Committee.

29th Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (Trondheim, Norway, 18-23 February 2008)¹²

23. The Committee was unable to provide clarification on the type of annatto extracts and the basis (bixin or norbixin) and agreed to consider this matter further at its next Session.

⁸ ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 95 and Appendix VI

⁹ ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 96 and Appendix VII

¹⁰ ALINORM 08/31/11, paras 82 and 95

¹¹ ALINORM 08/31/26, para. 15

¹² ALINORM 08/31/18, para. 9