

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 6

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

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PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES AND/OR ADDITION TO THE INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR FOOD ADDITIVES

The following comments have been received from the following Codex members and observers

China, European Union, India and IFAC

CHINA

China would like to thank Iran for chairing the working group and preparing the discussion paper. And China would like to provide following comments:

Table 2: Proposal for deletion of technological purposes and related functional classes

INS #	Name of Food Additive	Functional class	Technological purpose	Note	Comments
	Calcium chloride	Firming agent Stabilizer Thickener	509	Thickener function is not listed in JECFA specifications. Stabilizer is not applicable functional class for this additive	Suggests maintaining Thickener & Stabilizer

EUROPEAN UNION

In addition to the comments already sent to the Codex Secretariat the European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to provide the following comments:

General comments

The EUMS note that various additional technological purposes had been proposed for certain food additives (e.g. texturizer, suspending agent, cloud-producing agent, flavouring agent and flavouring adjuvant – paragraph 5 and 7 of CX/FA 13/45/14). The EUMS are of the view that the number of the functional classes and the technological purposes should not be expanded unless the use of a food additive could not be associated with any existing functional class/technological purpose. In this respect any addition of a functional class or a technological purpose should be carefully considered reflecting the CCFA effort to have a limited number of functional classes and technological purposes (as included in section 2 of CAC/GL 36-1989) in order to keep the terminology clear and simple.

Specific comments

The EUMS do not support the attribution of a new INS number for "potassium aluminium silicate, based pearlescent pigments" as proposed in Table 1 (CX/FA 13/45/14). Potassium aluminium silicate, based pearlescent pigments seems to be a mixture of INS 555 Potassium aluminium silicate with INS 171 Titanium dioxide and/or INS 172 Iron oxides. The specifications should be related to the individual food additives not to their mixtures. Since it seems that INS 555 Potassium aluminium silicate is used as a carrier in INS 171 Titanium dioxide and/or INS 172 Iron oxides the EUMS could support the addition of the functional class "carrier" for INS 555 Potassium aluminium silicate as proposed in Table 3 (CX/FA 13/45/14).

Nevertheless, there should be a more general discussion how to deal with the use of food additives in food additives at the CCFA level.

INDIA

- i. Table 2: Proposals for deletion of technological purposes and related functional classes: The proposed deletion of the technological functions in respect of potassium chloride and calcium chloride are acceptable as the relevant JECFA evaluations do not cover these functions.
- ii. Table 3: Proposals for additional technological purposes and related functional classes: The proposed additional technological purposes in respect of various food additives are acceptable provided these functions are covered by the relevant JECFA evaluations of these food additives.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD ADDITIVES COUNCIL (IFAC)

The International Food Additives Council (IFAC) is an international association representing companies that produce high quality substances used worldwide as food ingredients, including food additives, food colors and GRAS substances. IFAC thanks Iran for chairing Electronic Working Group (eWG) tasked with reviewing proposals for Changes and/or Addition to the International Numbering System for Food Additives and drafting the first discussion document to facilitate proposals for changes/additions to the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CAC/GL 36-1989, Revision 2012).

IFAC supports the addition of Potassium aluminium silicate-based pearlescent pigments with the technological purpose as a colour to the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CAC/GL 36-1989, Revision 2012) as 176. This pigment is used in commercial production internationally to provide a unique pearlescent appearance when provided to the surface of some foods, such as panned confections and gums, cookies, crackers, and other baked goods.

IFAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this matter.