

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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Agenda Item 19(b)

CX/FAC 00/29

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Thirty-second Session

Beijing, People's Republic of China, 20-24 March 2000

PACKAGING PROVISIONS TO MAINTAIN THE STABILITY OF IODISED SALT IN THE CODEX STANDARD FOR FOOD GRADE SALT

BACKGROUND

1. The 22nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) (June 1997) adopted the Revised Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt as a final Codex text (ALINORM 97/37, paras. 52-54). This revision only addressed iodisation provisions of the Standard. The Commission also forwarded the section concerning food additives to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC) for further consideration.
2. The 30th Session of the CCFAC (March 1998) revised and endorsed the food additive provisions of the Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt (ALINORM 99/12, paras. 18-21 and Appendix VII). The revised CCFAC endorsed food additive provisions were adopted by the 23rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 1999) as an amendment to the Standard (ALINORM 99/37, para. 106).
3. The 30th CCFAC also agreed that the proposal of Malaysia concerning the addition of a new section concerning packaging provisions to the Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt would be appended to its report for circulation and comment at Step 3 (ALINORM 99/12, para. 113 and Appendix XII). The 31st CCFAC (March 1999) requested the delegation of Malaysia to revise the document in light of the comments received for circulation at Step 3 and further consideration at its 32nd Session (ALINORM 99/12A, para. 150).

NOTE: Due to time constraints, the following proposal concerning the addition of a new section concerning packaging provisions in the Codex Standard for Food Grade Salt is not being circulated for comments at Step 3 prior to the 32nd CCFAC. Therefore, comment summary paper CX/FAC 00/29-Add. 1 will not be issued.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CODEX STANDARD FOR FOOD GRADE SALT
(CX STAN 150-1995 (Rev. 1-1997, Amend. 1-1999))

8. PACKAGING, TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

In any salt iodisation program, it is important to ensure that salt contains the recommended amount of iodine at the time of consumption. The retention of iodine in salt depends on the iodine compound used, the type of packaging, the exposure of the package to prevailing climatic conditions and the period of time between iodisation and consumption. To ensure that iodized salt ultimately reaches the consumer with the specified level of iodine, the following precautions may be taken into consideration by countries where climatic and storage conditions could result in a large amount of iodine loss:

8.1 Iodised salt should be packed in air tight bags of either high density polyethylene (HDPE) or polypropylene (PP) (laminated or non-laminated) or LDPE-lined jute bags (Grade 1803 DW jute bags lined with 150 gauge polyethylene sheet). In many countries, this may require a major switch from conventional packaging materials made of straw or jute. The cost of adding extra iodine to compensate for its loss from cheaper packaging (i.e., straw or jute) must be weighed against the cost of switching to the above expensive packing material.

8.2 Bulk packing units should not exceed 50 kg (in accordance with International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions) to avoid the use of hooks for lifting the bags.

8.3 Bags that have already been used for packing other articles such as fertilizers, cement, chemicals, etc. Should not be reused for packing iodised salt.

8.4 The distribution network should be streamlined so as to reduce the interval between iodisation and consumption of salt.

8.5 Iodised salt should not be exposed to rain, excessive humidity or direct sunlight at any stage of storage, transportation or sale.

8.6 Bags of iodised salt shall be stored only in covered rooms or “godowns” that have adequate ventilation.

8.7 The consumer should be similarly advised to store iodised salt in such a manner as to protect it from direct exposure to moisture, heat and sunlight.