

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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CX 4/30.2

CL 1999/25-FAC
November 1999

TO: - Codex Contact Points
- Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy.

SUBJECT: **Request for Comments on Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives Arising from the 53rd Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)**

DEADLINE: **15 JANUARY 2000**

COMMENTS:

TO: Dr. Paul M. Kuznesof Office of Premarket Approval (HFS-246) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition US Food and Drug Administration 200 C Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20204 United States of America Fax: +1.202.418.3030 E-mail: pkuzneso@bangate.fda.gov	COPY TO: Secretary Codex Alimentarius Commission Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Rome, Italy Fax: +39.06.5705.4593 E-mail: codex@fao.org
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BACKGROUND

1. Specification monographs for 227 food additives and flavouring agents have been established by the 53rd JECFA meeting (Rome, June 1999) and subsequently published in Addendum 7 to the "Compendium of Food Additive Specifications" (FAO Food and Nutrition Paper 52-Add. 7). The Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants will review the monographs to consider their adoption as Codex Specifications, taking into account comments received.
2. Comments are also invited on the Principles Governing the Establishment and Revision of Specifications, which are elaborated in Section C of Food and Nutrition Paper 52 - Add. 7.

AD HOC WORKING GROUP

Consideration of Specifications

3. Comments will be considered at a meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Specifications established by the 31st Session of the Committee. The agenda for this meeting is included in Annex 1 (below). The specifications will be classified into Categories I, II, III, IV, or V, according to the established procedures.

4. An explanation of the five categories and a list of those specifications designated as "Tentative" by JECFA are also provided in Annex 1. The Tentative monographs will be assigned to Category V and are not expected to require discussion. One specification, that for calcium hydrogen sulfite, was "Withdrawn" by JECFA because of lack of information on actual food use and insufficient information on physico-chemical properties.

Consideration of Flavouring Agents

5. Of the 187 flavouring agent monographs established during the 53rd JECFA, 107 are designated as Tentative (see Annex 1) and will be assigned to Category V. This leaves 80 for consideration during the session. For purposes of efficiency, the Working Group will be asked to identify only those monographs that it considers unsuitable for recommendation as Codex specifications (i.e., Category I). The JECFA numbers for all 77 substances are included in Annex 1 for easy reference.

Consideration of Principles

6. The Working Group will also have the opportunity to comment on the Principles Governing the Establishment and Revision of Specifications. See item VI of the Provisional Agenda in Annex 1, below.

Annex 1

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON SPECIFICATIONS *Saturday 18 March 2000, 11.15 to 13.30 hours*

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- I. Introductions
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Comments from the Codex and JECFA Secretariats
- IV. Comments by the Working Group Chairman
- V. Review of Category Definitions (see below)
- VI. Review of Comments Submitted on the Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives (FAO FNP 52 - Add.7) arising from the 53rd JECFA Meeting
 - A. Additives (uses other than as flavouring agents)
 - B. Specifications for certain flavouring agents
 - C. Principles governing the establishment and revision of specifications (see also Annex 1, items 4-8 of "Summary and Conclusions" of the 53rd JECFA, Rome 1-10 June 1999)
 - i. Residual ethanol – necessity for limits
 - ii. Heavy metals limit test - replacement of the test
 - iii. Citation of microbial strains – in specifications for enzyme preparations from genetically modified micro-organisms
 - iv. "Tentative" specifications for food additives – considerations for possible withdrawal where required information is not forthcoming
 - v. Specifications for flavouring agents designated as "tentative" – criteria for "tentative" designation
- VII. Other Business

SPECIFICATIONS CATEGORIES

- I. Specifications that are suitable for submission to the Commission for final adoption as Codex Specifications;
- II. Specifications that will be suitable for submission to the Commission for final adoption as Codex Specifications after editorial changes have been made;

- III. Specifications that require substantive changes before they are considered suitable as Codex Specifications and which should be held at Step 2 of the Specifications Procedures pending further advice from JECFA;
- IV. Specifications that have been revised by recent sessions of JECFA or that may be revised at the forthcoming session;
- V. Specifications that are incomplete and have been designated by JECFA as tentative (and, therefore, are not to be considered for adoption as Codex Specifications).

SPECIFICATIONS MONOGRAPHS DESIGNATED AS TENTATIVE AT THE 53rd JECFA (FNP 52 - ADD. 7, ROME 1999):

Sodium sulfate

Flavouring agents (Tentative)

No	Substance	No	Substance
456	1,4-Dithiane	457	(1-Buten-1-yl) methyl sulfide
458	Allyl sulfide	461	3-(Methylthio)propanol
462	4-(Methylthio)butanol	464	2-Methyl-4-propyl-1,3-oxathiane
465	2-Methylthioacetaldehyde	466	3-(Methylthio)propionaldehyde
467	3-(Methylthio)butanal	468	4-(Methylthio)butanal
470	2-(Methylthio)methyl-2-butenal	471	2,8-Dithianon-4-ene-4-carboxaldehyde
473	Methylthiomethyl butyrate	475	Ethyl 2-(methylthio)acetate
478	3-(Methylthio)propyl acetate	479	Methylthiomethyl hexanoate
480	Ethyl 3-(methylthio)butyrate	481	3-(Methylthio)hexyl acetate
482	S-Methyl thioacetate	484	Methyl thiobutyrate
486	S-Methyl 2-methylbutanethioate	487	S-Methyl 3-methylbutanethioate
488	S-Methyl 4-methylpentanethioate	489	S-Methyl hexanethioate
490	Allyl thiopropionate	495	1-Methylthio-2-propanone
497	4-(Methylthio)-2-butanone	498	4,5-Dihydro-3(2H) thiophenone
499	2-Methyltetrahydrothiophen-3-one	500	4-(Methylthio)-4-methyl-2-pentanone
502	Di(butan-3-one-1-yl) sulfide	503	o-(Methylthio)phenol
504	S-Methyl benzothioate	507	Methylsulfinylmethane
508	Methyl mercaptan	509	Propanethiol
510	2-Propanethiol	512	2-Methyl-1-propanethiol
513	3-Methylbutanethiol	514	2-Pentanethiol
516	Cyclopentanethiol	518	1-Hexanethiol
519	2-Ethylhexanethiol	520	2, 3, or 10-Mercaptopinane
521	Allyl mercaptan	523	1-p-Menthene-8-thiol
524	Thiogeraniol		
528	o-Toluenethiol	529	2-Ethylthiophenol
531	2-Naphthalenethiol	533	bis(Methylthio)methane
536	1,2-Propanedithiol	543	Trithioacetone
544	3-Mercapto-3-methyl-1-butanol	546	2-Mercapto-3-butanol
548	4-Methoxy-2-methyl-2-butanethiol	552	Ethyl 2-mercaptopropionate
556	3-Mercaptohexyl hexanoate	557	1-Mercapto-2-propanone
558	3-Mercapto-2-butanone	559	2-Keto-4-butanethiol
560	3-Mercapto-2-pentanone	561	p-Mentha-8-thiol-3-one
562	2,5-Dimethyl-2,5-dihydroxy-1,4-dithiane	565	Methyl propyl disulfide
568	Allyl methyl disulfide	569	Methyl 1-propenyl disulfide
570	Propenyl propyl disulfide	571	Methyl 3-methyl-1-butenyl disulfide
572	Allyl disulfide	573	3,5-Dimethyl-1,2,4-trithiolane

574	3-Methyl-1,2,4-trithiane	575	Dicyclohexyl disulfide
579	Benzyl disulfide	580	2-Methyl-2-(methyldithio)propanal
581	Ethyl 2-(methyldithio)propionate	582	Dimethyl trisulfide
583	Methyl ethyl trisulfide	584	Methyl propyl trisulfide
585	Dipropyl trisulfide	586	Allyl methyl trisulfide
587	Diallyl trisulfide	588	Diallyl polysulfide
589	2-Oxobutyric acid	590	Methyl 2-hydroxy-4-methylpentanoate
591	Methyl 2-oxo-3-methylpentanoate	592	Citronelloxyacetaldehyde
594	Ethyl 3-Hydroxybutyrate	596	Butyl acetoacetate
597	Isobutyl acetoacetate	598	Isoamyl acetoacetate
599	Geranyl acetoacetate	600	Methyl 3-hydroxyhexanoate
603	Ethyl 2,4-dioxohexanoate	604	3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-heptanone
605	1,3-Nonanediol acetate (mixed esters)	609	1,4-Nonanediol diacetate
610	Hydroxycitronellol	613	Hydroxycitronellal diethyl acetal
615	Butyl ethyl malonate	618	Fumaric acid
619	l-Malic acid	620	Diethyl malate
627	Aconitic acid	628	Ethyl aconitate (mixed esters)
629	Triethyl citrate	630	Tributyl acetylcitrate

JECFA NUMBERS FOR FLAVOURING AGENTS GIVEN FULL SPECIFICATIONS (or for which existing full specifications were revised or retained) BY THE 53rd JECFA (FNP 52-ADD. 7, ROME 1999)

452-455, 459, 460, 463, 469, 472, 474, 476, 477, 483, 485, 491-494, 496, 501, 505, 506, 511, 515, 517, 522, 525-527, 530, 532, 534, 535, 537-542, 545, 547, 549, 550, 551, 553-555, 563, 564, 566, 567, 576-578, 593, 595, 601, 602, 606-608, 611, 612, 614, 616, 617, 621-626, 631, 631.1, 632, 632.1, 633, 633.1, 634, 635.

SPECIFICATIONS MONOGRAPHS WITHDRAWN AT THE 53rd JECFA (FNP 52-ADD. 7, ROME 1999):

Calcium hydrogen sulfite