

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Agenda Item 9

CX/FAC 05/37/13-Add. 1
February 2005

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Thirty-seventh Session

The Hague, the Netherlands, 25 – 29 April 2005

DISCUSSION PAPER ON CARRIERS COMMENTS

The following comments have been received from: Brazil, Canada, Chile, European Community, New Zealand, USA, Venezuela and ELC

BRAZIL:

We support the recommendations on paragraph 4 and we suggest the definition “a food additive used to facilitate the introduction or delivery or to maintain the integrity of another food additive or nutrient without exerting any technological effect in the final food as sold to the consumer”. Besides the translation from English to Spanish for “carriers” to “sustancias inertes” does not seem correct, we suggest “soportes o diluyentes”.

CANADA:

With regard to recommendation (a) of paragraph 4, that CCFAC should consider the two proposed definitions for “Carrier” as presented in paragraph 3, Canada prefers the second definition (i.e., definition (b) of paragraph 3). Canada is concerned that the first definition (i.e., definition (a) of paragraph 3) has the potential to encompass other additives that are not considered carriers, on account of the phrase “to maintain the integrity of.”

Canada supports recommendations (b) and (c) of paragraph 4.

CHILE:

Chile agrees to the definition of carrier under paragraph 3 b) of said document, which coincides with what has been stated as a definition for carrier in item 8 (CX/FAC/05/37/12). Moreover, Chile supports recommendations a) b) y c) of paragraph 4 in the same document.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:

The European Community would like to thank the working group for preparing the discussion paper on carriers. The EC agrees with the recommendations given in point 4 (a) to (c).

The European Community would like to underline that carriers could also be needed for flavourings and nutrients. Neither of the proposed definitions in the discussion paper takes this entirely into account.

Therefore, the EC would support the second definition after adding the words “flavourings and nutrients”:
“carriers are substances used to dissolve, dilute, disperse or otherwise physically modify a food additive, **flavouring or nutrient**, without altering its function (and without exerting any technological effect themselves) in order to facilitate its handling, application or use”.

NEW ZEALAND:

New Zealand supports the inclusion of Carrier as a functional class in the elaboration of the GSFA.

New Zealand supports the recommendations in paragraph 4, including the inclusion of the definition of Carrier proposed by the electronic working group in paragraph 3(a) of CX/FAC 05/37/13:

“A food additive used to facilitate the introduction or deliver, or to maintain the integrity of, another food additive or nutrient in the final food as sold to the consumer”

This definition is simpler than that proposed in paragraph 3(b) and is sufficient noting that other food additive provisions apply such as general principles for use of food additives and the carry-over principle.

USA:

This responds to CX/FAC 05/37/13 (October 2004) which requests comments on the discussion paper generated by the working group (WG) concerning the development of a definition for the functional class “Carrier,” and the development of a suitable approach for consideration of carriers in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA). The United States of America appreciates the opportunity to provide the following comments for consideration at the forthcoming 37th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC).

Comments on Recommendations

- The United States supports the inclusion of “Carrier” as a food additive functional class in the elaboration of the GSFA.
- The United States supports the inclusion of the definition of “Carrier” proposed by the EWG in paragraph 3(a) of CX/FAC 05/37/13:

“A food additive used to facilitate the introduction or delivery or to maintain the integrity of, another food additive or nutrient in the final food as sold to the consumer.”

In our view, this definition is simpler and clearer than the alternative proposed in paragraph 3(b). This definition makes explicit that the role of food additive carriers, as opposed to processing aids, have a direct effect in food as sold to the consumer. Additionally, this definition includes the use of food additives as carriers for nutrients and thus addresses the request from the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Use (See ALINORM 04/27/26, paras. 131-137).

VENEZUELA:

From the two proposed definitions of the term ‘carrier’, Venezuela considers the definition under b) clearer and more complete, which literally reads: **‘Substance used to dissolve, dilute, disperse, or otherwise physically modify a food additive, without altering its technological function and without exerting any technological effect themselves, in order to facilitate its handling, application, or use’.**

The definition of an additive is generally related to the fact that the additive has a technological effect in the food.

ELC:

ELC would like to thank the working group for the preparation of the discussion paper summarising the possible approaches for consideration of carriers in the GSFA.

ELC supports the definition (a) for carrier, i.e. “a food additive used to facilitate the introduction or deliver, or to maintain the integrity of, another food additive or nutrient in the final food as sold to the consumer”.

Consequently, ELC supports the inclusion of a “carrier” as functional class in the elaboration of the GSFA, as recommended by the Working Group.