

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 6

CX/FAC 05/37/6  
November 2004

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

### Thirty-seventh Session

The Hague, the Netherlands, 25 – 29 April 2005

#### WORKING DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT TO THE DISCUSSION ON THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR FOOD ADDITIVES

1. The 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC) agreed that the United States would prepare a revised General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) containing all proposed draft, draft, and adopted food additive provisions.<sup>1</sup>
2. The GSFA was revised in accordance with comments submitted at the 35<sup>th</sup> CCFAC (CX/FAC 03/8 and CRDs 6 and 7) and at the 36<sup>th</sup> CCFAC (CX/FAC 04/36/9 and CRDs 15 and 17), as well as recommendations by the 35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> CCFAC and decisions by the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).<sup>2</sup> For a description of the procedures used to construct the GSFA from the source data, please consult CX/FAC 97/7.
3. The GSFA was revised in accordance with the Food Category System that was adopted by the 27<sup>th</sup> CAC.<sup>3</sup>
4. The following should be noted with respect to the revised Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA (Appendix I and Appendix II, respectively):
  - a. The “Step” column indicates the status of specific provisions in the GSFA. Typically, only Step 3, Step 6 or Step 8 is indicated. Number “3” in the Step Column reflects a new proposed use of an additive. Number “6” in the Step Column indicates that the provision has been adopted at Step 5 by the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) or the CAC. Food additive provisions that have been adopted at Step 8 by the Commission contain the notation “adopted” and the year of adoption. Certain provisions related to the use of additives in fruit juices and nectars (specifically, food categories 14.1.2.1 (Fruit juice), 14.1.2.3 (Concentrates for fruit juice), 14.1.3.1 (Fruit nectar), and 14.1.3.3 (Concentrates for fruit nectar) are indicated at Step 7. These provisions were endorsed by the 36<sup>th</sup> CCFAC<sup>4</sup> and were forwarded to the 4<sup>th</sup> *ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices for appropriate incorporation into the Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars that will be forwarded to the 28<sup>th</sup> CAC (2005) for full adoption at Step 8.

<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 04/27/12, para. 77.

<sup>2</sup> ALINORM 04/27/12, para 81 and Appendix III

<sup>3</sup> ALINORM 04/27/41, para. 26 and Appendix III, Part 1.

<sup>4</sup> ALINORM 04/27/12, para. 47 and Appendix II. There is a typographical error in para. 47 of ALINORM 04/27/12. The final sentence should read: “. . . Consequently, the *Ad Hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices should remove the list of food additives from the draft Codex General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars and replace it with the following text: “Food additives listed in Tables 1 and 2 of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives in Food Categories 14.1.2.1 (Fruit juice), 14.1.2.3 (Concentrates for fruit juice), 14.1.3.1 (Fruit nectar), and 14.1.3.3 (Concentrates for fruit nectar) may be used in foods subject to this Standard”.

- b. In cases where a new proposed use level of an additive is higher than a level previously adopted at Step 5 or Step 8, there are two entries for a specific food category. Thus, in some instances, there may be more than one provision for the use of an additive in a specific food category (e.g., acesulfame potassium has two entries listed in food category 01.2, one at Step 3 (500 mg/kg) and one at Step 6 (GMP)).
  - c. The provisions at Step 3 also appear in the document “Proposed Draft Provisions in the GSFA” (CL 2004/44-FAC) that is circulated separately for comment prior to the 37<sup>th</sup> CCFAC. For the subject Working Document, as well as CL 2004/44-FAC, if the proposed additive use level for a new entry (Step 3) is less than or equal to the use level for an entry already in the draft GSFA at Step 6, 7 or 8, the Step 3 entry is not shown, because it is subsumed under the level for the adopted entry.
  - d. The additive provisions in Tables 1 and 2 for the Table 3 additives that have been assigned a “group” acceptable daily intake (ADI) by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) are not grouped (e.g., “alginates”) because different additives in the group may have different provisions for use. Therefore, these additives are listed individually in the revised GSFA.
  - e. The functional effects listed for each additive in the GSFA are derived primarily from the functional class titles for food additives in the International Numbering System (INS)<sup>5</sup>. Where JECFA has specified additional functional class titles (e.g., carrier solvent, release agent, sequestrant), these additional functional classes have been included in the GSFA. In some cases, Codex Member States reported an intended technical effect that is not listed for an additive in either the INS or by JECFA. In such cases, the technical effect is also included in the GSFA. Thus, the list of functional effects for each additive in the GSFA may contain a mixture of the INS functional effects, JECFA functional effects, and Codex Member State-provided functional effects.
5. The following should be noted with respect to the revised Table 3 of the GSFA (Appendix III):
- a. The status of each additive in the Codex procedure is indicated in columns entitled “Step”. If the inclusion of a specific additive has been adopted at Step 8 by the Commission, the year of this decision is noted in the column entitled: “Year”.
  - b. Three additives were added to Table 3 at Step 3 as a result of decisions by the 34<sup>th</sup> CCFAC. These additives are: cross-linked sodium carboxymethylcellulose (INS 468), acetylated oxidized starch (INS 1451), and alpha-cyclodextrin (INS 457). Acetylated oxidized starch and alpha-cyclodextrin were assigned an ADI of “not specified” at the 57<sup>th</sup> JECFA, whereas cross-linked sodium carboxymethylcellulose received an ADI of “not specified” at the 59<sup>th</sup> JECFA.

**Note from the Codex Secretariat**

Due to their volume, the appendices (in English only) to this document are only being distributed electronically. A limited number of paper copies will be made available at the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

The Appendices of this document may be downloaded from the Codex FTP server as follows:

Electronic link to Appendix I (Table 1): <ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccfac37/fa3706ae.pdf>

Electronic link to Appendix II (Table 2): <ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccfac37/fa3706be.pdf>

Electronic link to Appendix III (Table 3): <ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccfac37/fa3706ce.pdf>

---

<sup>5</sup> CAC/GL 36 “Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives.”