

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 9

CX/FAC 05/37/13

October 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

DISCUSSION PAPER ON CARRIERS

Governments and international organizations in Observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission wishing to submit comments on the following subject matter are invited to do so **no later than 31 January 2005** as follows: Netherlands Codex Contact Point, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, P.O. Box 20401, 2500 E.K., The Hague, The Netherlands (Telefax: +31.70.378.6141; E-mail: info@codexalimentarius.nl - *preferably*), with a copy to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy (Telefax: +39.06.5705.4593; E-mail: Codex@fao.org - *preferably*).

Background

1. At the 36th meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC) in March 2004, the Committee considered a definition for the term “Carrier” in view of the development of a suitable approach for consideration of carriers in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA).

2. In recognising the difficulty to reach a common understanding on the definition, the Committee agreed that a working group (WG) led by the United Kingdom, with the assistance of the EC, Ghana, Switzerland and the United States would prepare a discussion paper that would address the definition and approaches for the inclusion of carriers in the GSFA, including the use of food additives as “nutrient carriers” as requested by the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) for circulation, comments and consideration at its next Session.¹

3. The WG has worked by e-mail in conjunction with the electronic working group (EWG) on Harmonizing the Food Additive Functional Classes Used by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the Codex Class Names in the International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives in developing the following two proposed definitions for “Carrier”:²

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.

¹ ALINORM 04/27/12, para. 89.

² CX/FAC 05/37/12 “Harmonization of Terms Used by Codex and JECFA”.

Recommendations

4. The WG recommends that the CCFAC should consider:

- (a) The inclusion of the definition of “Carrier” proposed by the EWG in para 3(a) above in the revised list of the International Numbering System (INS) Functional Classes.
- (b) The inclusion of a “Carrier” as a functional class in the elaboration of the GSFA.
- (c) As also recommended by the EWG , the CCFAC should only endorse food additive provisions in the GSFA or in other Codex standards using the functional class terminology of the proposed harmonized INS list rather than of the current INS list of functional terms or the older terms in some Codex advisory specifications for the identity and purity of food additives.