

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 9 (b)

CX/FAC 06/38/15
March 2006

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

Thirty-eighth Session

The Hague, the Netherlands, 24 – 28 April 2006

PROPOSALS FOR ADDITION AND/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR FOOD ADDITIVES

Comments in response to CL 2005/38-FAC by European Community and ELC

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The European Community requests that the following additives be considered for inclusion in the Codex International Numbering system (INS) for food additives under the numbers suggested.

European Union legislation is currently under negotiation to authorise these additives and with E numbers assigned similarly.

1204 Pullulan (glazing agent, coating agent)

1452 Starch aluminium octenyl succinate (anticaking agent, carrier, stabiliser)

ELC

The ELC (Federation of European Food Additives, Food Enzymes and Food Cultures Industries) would like to **obtain clarification about the rationale behind the assignation of the same INS 161b for Tagetes extract¹ and Lutein from *Tagetes erecta*² at the 37th CCFAC session.**

We understand that the assignation of an international number is a means of identifying individual food additives on a world-wide basis. For example, it was agreed at the 37th CCFAC to assign a different INS to zeaxanthin (synthetic) on the grounds that it “*has a different specification, and therefore should have a separate INS number*”³.

We are concerned about the possible inconsistencies in the interpretation of the meaning of “different specification”. Hence, Tagetes extract and lutein from *Tagetes erecta* have different JECFA specifications (the latter has a higher content in lutein, not less than 70 %) and they were nevertheless assigned the same INS. We consider that this might lead to a very confusing situation for these colours.

¹ JECFA specification published in FNP Add 9 (2001)

² JECFA specification published in FNP 52 Add 12 (2004)

³ CCFAC 37 – CRD 3 25 April 2005