

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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**Agenda Item 2**

**CX/NFSDU 06/28/2  
September 2006**

## **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES**

**28<sup>th</sup> Session,**

**Sheraton Chiangmai Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

### **MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES**

#### **A. GENERAL DECISIONS OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Geneva, Switzerland, 3 – 7 July 2006)<sup>1</sup>**

The Commission **adopted** a number of amendments to the Rules of Procedure and other amendments to the Procedural Manual, including the splitting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants into the Committee on Food Additives and the Committee on Contaminants in Foods and establishing new Task Forces. It also adopted other texts and standards elaborated by the Codex Committees and Task Forces. A complete list of these texts and details of their consideration could be found in ALINORM 06/41 which is available from: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net>

The 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission endorsed the proposal of the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee to recommend to Codex Committees and Task Forces:

- To prioritize work when the agenda of the Committee includes many items of work;
- To invite all Chairpersons, or host countries for adjourned committees, to provide their comments on the items of work that have been under consideration for more than five years; and
- To inform the Executive Committee and the Commission of the proposed timeframe for completion of all items that have been approved as new work prior to 2004 (ALINORM 06/29/41, para. 8 and ALINORM 06/29/3, paras. 64-65)

The Committee is therefore invited to propose a timeframe for all items under consideration in the Step Procedure while considering them at the current session.

#### **B. DECISIONS OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

The following texts considered and adopted by the Commission have direct relation to the work of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU).

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<sup>1</sup> Full report of the 29th Session of the Commission is available from: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net>

## STANDARDS CONSIDERED AT STEP 8

### *Draft Revised Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children<sup>2</sup> (ALINORM 06/29/41, paras 91-93)*

The Delegation of Thailand referring to its comments in LIM 13, stated that it was necessary to limit the level of added free sugars in the Draft Revised Standard to be less than 10% of total energy as recommended by the WHO/FAO Expert Consultation on Diet and Nutrition for the Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases and proposed to return the text to the CCNFSDU for further consideration of this issue. This view was supported by several delegations.

The Delegation of India referring to its comments presented in LIM 8, proposed that the content of the cereal in cereal based foods should be kept at 50% cereal as the minimum, that the energy density of the cereal based foods for infants should be 4-5 kcal/g and that the minimum protein content of cereal based foods for infants and children should be 15%. This view was supported by some delegations.

After some consideration, the Commission **adopted** the Draft Revised Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children at Step 8 as proposed in Appendix II of ALINORM 06/29/26. The Delegations of Thailand and India reserved their positions on this decision. The Commission agreed to request the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Uses to evaluate the need for revising Sections 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of the adopted standard in light of the recommendations of the WHO Global Strategy for Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

The Delegation of Thailand prepared a discussion paper to address this issue. The Committee is invited to consider this paper which is presented on Agenda Item 10 “Other Business and Future Work”.

## STANDARDS CONSIDERED AT STEP 5

### *Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants (Section B)<sup>3</sup> (ALINORM 06/29/41, paras 108-110)*

The Delegation of India proposed to modify the Scope of the Standard by deleting the terms “disorder, disease or medical condition” and to indicate that the Standard should cover foods to be consumed only during specific period of age and supported using conversion factors of 6.38 for all milk formula products prepared with milk and 5.71 for infant formula derived from soybean.

The Delegation of Cuba noted that a number of square brackets remained in the text and encouraged the Committee to finalise the Draft Revised Standard as soon as possible in view of its importance.

The Commission **adopted** the Proposed Draft Revised Standard at Step 5 with the understanding that technical comments submitted to the Commission and comments made by India would be considered by the next session of the CCNFSDU.

### *WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health: actions that could be taken by Codex (ALINORM 06/29/41, paras 175-176)*

The Representative of WHO informed the Commission about the background and progress to date in preparing a document on activities that Codex might take to facilitate the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. The Representative indicated that due to the complexity of this issue, inputs had been sought by the establishment of an electronic forum by WHO and FAO and requested to accept delay in preparing a complete action document for this session of the Commission.

The Commission **noted** the information provided in LIM 6 and agreed that WHO and FAO would complete a document containing concrete proposals for possible actions by Codex that would shortly be circulated for comments to all Codex Contact Points. The comments received together with the document itself, would be considered by the next sessions of the CCNFSDU and CCFL. The views and recommendations of these Committees would then be forwarded to the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for further guidance.

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<sup>2</sup> ALINORM 06/29/26, Appendix II.

<sup>3</sup> ALINORM 06/29/26, para. 126 and Appendix IV.

The Committee is therefore invited to consider the government comments received in reply to the above mentioned document, within the Terms of Reference of CCNFSU, and express its view on how the Committee should contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy.

***Nitrogen Conversion Factor<sup>4</sup> (ALINORM 06/29/41, paras 179-184)***

The Commission noted the request of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products to ensure consistency in the use of nitrogen conversion factors and the importance of using the conversion factor of 6.38 when analyzing milk protein. The Commission recalled that this matter was under discussion in the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses in the development of the draft revised Standard for Infant Formulas and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants.

The Delegation of the European Community supported the need for consistent use of a nitrogen conversion factor in products containing milk protein and supported the proposal to refer this issue to the CCMAS.

The Delegation of the United States of America supported by the Delegations New Zealand and the European Community further proposed that the matter be referred to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling whose terms of reference included the consideration of specific sampling and analysis problems submitted to it by the Commission or any of its Committees.

The Secretariat clarified that the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling did not develop methods, but rather endorsed methods put forward by specific Committees and that the current issue under consideration by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses was not being discussed under the methods section of the draft revised standard, but rather under “essential requirements” and that any methods that CCNFSU might propose at its forthcoming session or any question on methodology issues could be considered by the next session of CCMAS.

After some discussion, the Commission **agreed** to request the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses to consider the nitrogen conversion factor based on the principle of scientific analysis and evidence, involving thorough review of all relevant information, taking into account the need for consistency.

The Delegations of the United States and New Zealand expressed their reservation with this decision and maintained their position that the methods of analysis and sampling and the determination of an appropriate nitrogen conversion factor were interlinked and that the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling was the appropriate subsidiary body to consider this matter.

The Committee should take this into account while considering Agenda Item 4.

**C. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**  
**CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING**

***Draft Revised Standard for Gluten-Free Foods (ALINORM 0629/23, paras 68-71)***

The Committee recalled that at its last Session it had temporarily endorsed the Enzyme-Linked Immunoassay Sorbent R5 Mendez (ELISA) Method as Type I pending publication of the method and collaborative inter-laboratory studies.

Several delegations questioned the source against which the antibody used in the method had been raised, what reactive group it was sensitive to and the fact that another Type I method was being developed for the same toxic epitope. The Delegation of Canada expressed the view that the method should be classified as Type II.

It was clarified that R5 ELISA is a method based on a monoclonal antibody raised against secalin, the rye prolamin and that it was useful for detection of gluten in natural and heat-processed samples (sandwich ELISA); that the antibody reacts with the pentapeptide QQFPF, which is present in all gliadins, secalins and hordeins and that QQFPF is also present in coeliac-active epitopes; and for the detection of hydrolyzed gluten, a modification of the R5 assay (competitive ELISA) has to be applied.

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<sup>4</sup> ALINORM 06/29/11, paras 17-18.

In view of provision and publication of the collaborative studies and the clarifications provided, the Committee agreed to the recommendation of the Working Group to endorse the method as Type I.

The Committee is invited to it into account while considering Agenda Item 5.