

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 4

CX/PFV 00/3
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Twentieth Session

Washington D.C., U.S.A., 11-15 September 2000

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIORITY LIST FOR THE REVISION AND STANDARDIZATION OF PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Governments and interested international organizations wishing to submit comments on *The Establishment of a Priority List for the Revision and Standardization of Processed Fruits and Vegetables* are invited to do so **not later than 14 July 2000** to Ms. Ellen Y. Matten, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, US Department of Agriculture, Room 4861 South Building, 1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, DC, 20250-2700 (Fax: +1 202 720 3157, E-mail: uscodex@usda.gov), with a copy to the Secretary, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Rome, Italy (Fax No. + 39.06.5705.4593 or E-Mail codex@fao.org).

BACKGROUND

1. The 19th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Rome, Italy, 1-10 July 1991) agreed with the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade (Rome, Italy, 18-27 March 1991) that existing Codex standards should be reviewed in order to simplify them to make their acceptance by governments easier. The Commission stressed that the need to review Codex standards was urgent and requested the Codex Secretariat to contact host government secretariats to initiate this work as soon as possible.¹

2. In view of the urgent need to comply with the Commission's directive, the US Secretariat, assisted by the Codex Secretariat, initiated the revision of the 37 standards for processed fruits and vegetables in order to make them consistent with the above-noted recommendations. The revised standards were compiled and presented in a single document which was circulated for comments prior to the 19th session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV).²

¹ ALINORM 91/40, paras. 95-97

² CL 1997/1-PFV

3. The 19th Session of the CCPFV (Washington D.C., U.S.A., 16-20 March 1998) noted the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 19th Session. It agreed to move towards the elaboration of more generalized standards provided that the aspects of food safety, consumer protection, facilitation of trade, and ensuring fair practices in trade were adequately covered by the standards.³ In reviewing the standards contained in the CL 1997/1-PFV, the Committee noted that many commodities shared the same provisions and therefore, it agreed to combine some individual commodity standards into a single standard (i.e. *Proposed Draft Codex Standards for Canned Apricots, Canned Peaches and Canned Plums* into a *Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Canned Fruits*).⁴

4. Due to time constraints, the Committee could not consider all the individual standards for processed fruits and vegetables contained in the Circular Letter. In line with the previous decision to proceed with the elaboration of horizontal standards which would replace the existing individual commodity standards, it therefore agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to arrange the drafting of a number of standards covering groups of similar products in a similar manner as the *Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Stone Fruits* and to incorporate all the pertinent decisions made at that Session. It was noted that the elaboration of this more general standard would be subject to approval by the 45th Session of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) as new work for the CCPFV.

5. The 45th Session of the CCEXEC (Rome, Italy, 3-5 June 1998) approved the elaboration of a number of general standards for certain groups of products as new work for the CCPFV. In taking this decision, the Executive Committee noted that Codex Committees should follow the instructions of guidance established by the Commission by giving preference to standards which were inclusive of all products traded within commodity groups rather than highly specific standards, in order to avoid problems of achieving consensus at the time of adopting these standards.⁵

6. Although the last CCPFV session agreed to initiate work on reviewing and combining the current revised individual Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables to make them as inclusive as possible, the Committee decided to maintain a number of products as separate standards. In addition, the 19th Session of the CCPFV recalled that it would also have to take into consideration additional standards related to processed fruits and vegetables coming from other Codex committees. A Table containing a list of the current status of work for the next session of the CCPFV is appended to this document as Appendix I. The revision of standards for quick frozen fruits and vegetables was also entrusted to the CCPFV.⁶

7. In view of the extensive programme of work for the CCPFV, the Secretariat is of the opinion that the Committee should establish a ***Priority List for Standardization of Processed Fruits and Vegetables*** to be standardized at its next and subsequent sessions. In taking this decision, the Committee should take into account the ***Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*** laid down in the Codex Alimentarius Commission Procedural Manual (11th Edition, pages. 66-67) which established parameters applicable to the elaboration of commodity standards and clearly regulate new work to be undertaken by Codex Committees. For ease of reference, the full text of the aforesaid criteria is reproduced below so that governments and international organizations can bear them in mind when prioritizing the standardization of certain products or groups of products

³ ALINORM 99/27 paras. 6-9

⁴ ALINORM 99/27, para. 44

⁵ ALINORM 99/3, paras. 26-27 and App. 3.

⁶ ALINORM 99/37, para. 219

based on the list contained in Appendix I. In addition, in order to assist the Committee in the establishment of a priority list on the basis of significant production and trade statistics, information available from various sources is attached at Appendix II.

8. Governments and interested international organizations are invited to provide both the US and the Codex Secretariats with information on a priority list of products and/or groups of products to be standardized by the forthcoming session of the CCPFV based on the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities, the current status of work as contained in Appendix I, and appropriate documentation and justification.

CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORK PRIORITIES

When a Codex Committee proposes to elaborate a standard, code of practice or related text within its terms of reference, it should first consider the priorities established by the Commission in the Medium-Term Plan of Work, any specific relevant strategic project currently being undertaken by the Commission and the prospect of completing the work within a reasonable period of time. It should also assess the proposal against the criteria set out below.

If the proposal falls in an area outside the Committee's terms of reference the proposal should be reported to the Commission in writing together with proposals for such amendments to the Committee's terms of reference as may be required.

CRITERIA

Criteria applicable to general subjects

- a) Consumer protection from the point of view of health and fraudulent practices.
- b) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade.
- c) Scope of work and establishment of priorities between the various sections of the work.
- d) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field.

Criteria applicable to commodities

- a) Consumer protection from the point of view of health and fraudulent practices.
- b) Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries.
- c) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade.
- d) International or regional market potential.
- e) Amenability of the commodity to standardization.
- f) Coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards.
- g) Number of commodities which would need separate standards indicating whether raw, semi processed or processed.
- h) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field.

SUMMARY STATUS OF WORK

Subject	Step ⁷	Document Reference	Comments
Draft Revised Codex Standard for Canned Applesauce	6	ALINORM 99/27 para. 52 & App. II	The 19 th Session of CCPFV (Washington D.C., U.S.A., 16-20 March 1998) fully discussed a Proposed Draft Revised Codex Standard for Applesauce and a Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Canned Pears as contained in Appendix I and II of CL 1997/1-PFV respectively. It agreed to advance the proposed revised drafts to the CCEXEC for adoption at Step 5 and advancement to Step 6 ⁸ and the 45 th Session of the CCEXEC (Rome, Italy, 3-5 June 1998) agreed to this proposal. ⁹
Draft Revised Codex Standard for Canned Pears	6	ALINORM 99/27, para. 52 & App. III	The Draft Revised Codex Standards for Canned Applesauce and Canned Pears are being currently circulated for comments at Step 6 under CL 1998/25-PFV. Comments submitted in response to this working document will be summarized in CX/PFV 00/4-Add.1.
Draft Codex Standard for Canned Bamboo Shoots	6	ALINORM 97/15 para. 17 & App. II	This Standard was proposed by the CCASIA at its 8 th Session (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27-31 January 1992) based on trade information and marketing aspects of canned bamboo shoots ¹⁰ . The proposal was approved by the CCEXEC at its 39 th Session (Geneva, Switzerland, 30 June-3 July 1993) ¹¹ . The CCEXEC at its 43 rd Session (Geneva, Switzerland, 4-7 June 1996) adopted the Proposed Draft Standard at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6. It agreed that further development should be entrusted to the CCPFV. ¹² The 19 th CCPFV (Washington D.C., U.S.A., 16-20 March 1998) agreed that this Standard should be a stand-alone standard and returned the draft

⁷ At the time of the preparation of this paper.
⁸ ALINORM 99/27, para. 52 and App. II & III
⁹ ALINORM 99/3, para. 29 & App. 4
¹⁰ ALINORM 93/15, para. 87
¹¹ ALINORM 93/3, paras. 79-80
¹² ALINORM 97/3, para. 18 & App. 3

Subject	Step ⁷	Document Reference	Comments
			to Step 6. It requested Thailand, in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat, to redraft the text in the current Codex format incorporating all the pertinent decisions made at that Session. ¹³
Draft Codex Standard for Pickles	6	ALINORM 99/15 para. 19 & App. III	This Standard was proposed by the CCASIA at its 8 th Session (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27-31 January 1992) ⁹ . The proposal was approved by the CCEXEC at its 39 th Session (Geneva, Switzerland, 30 June-3 July 1993) ¹⁰ . The 11 th Session of CCASIA (Chiang Rai, Thailand, 16-19 December 1997) advanced the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Pickles to Step 5 for adoption by the 45 th Session of the CCEXEC (Rome, Italy, 3-5 June 1998), with the understanding that it would be further elaborated by the CCPFV ¹⁴ . The CCEXEC adopted the Proposed Draft Standard at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6. ¹⁵
Draft Codex Standard for Kimchi	6	ALINORM 99/15, para. 19 & App. IV	This Standard was proposed by the CCASIA at its 10 th Session (Tokyo, Japan, 5-8 March 1996) ¹⁶ . The proposal was approved by the CCEXEC at its 43 rd Session (Geneva, Switzerland, 4-7 June 1996) ¹¹ . The 11 th Session of CCASIA (Chiang Rai, Thailand, 16-19 December 1997) advanced the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Kimchi to Step 5 for adoption by the 45 th Session of the CCEXEC (Rome, Italy, 3-5 June 1998), with the understanding that it would be further elaborated by the CCPFV. ¹⁷ The CCEXEC adopted the Proposed Draft Standard at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6. ¹⁴
Draft Codex Standard for Aqueous Coconut Products	5	ALINORM 01/15, para. 28 & App. II	The 21 st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Rome, Italy, 3-8 July 1995) was informed of an extensive programme of standardization of coconut products undertaken by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC). The Commission, while encouraging the

¹³ ALINORM 99/27, para. 65

¹⁴ ALINORM 99/15, para. 19 & App. III

¹⁵ ALINORM 99/3, para. 29 & App. 4

¹⁶ ALINORM 97/15, para. 68

¹⁷ ALINORM 99/15, para. 19 & App. IV

Subject	Step ⁷	Document Reference	Comments
			<p>development of standards in this area, agreed that this work should be coordinated with its own work and asked that the matter be considered by the CCASIA¹⁸.</p> <p>The 10th Session of CCASIA (Tokyo, Japan, 5-8 March 1996) agreed to recommend to the 43rd Session of CCEXEC (Geneva, Switzerland, 4-7 June 1996) to initiate the elaboration of a standard for aqueous coconut products in conformity with the Codex format,¹⁹ and the CCEXEC agreed on this proposal.¹¹</p> <p>The 11th CCASIA (Chiang Rai, Thailand, 16-19 December 1997) discussed a Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Aqueous Coconut Products which was returned to Step 3 for further comments.²⁰ At its 12th Session (Chiang Mai, Thailand, 23-26 November 1999), the CCASIA agreed to forward the Proposed Draft to the 47th Session of the CCEXEC (Geneva, Switzerland, 28-30 June 2000) for adoption at Step 5, advancement to Step 6 and further development by the CCPFV.</p>
<p>Proposed Draft Revised Codex Standards for:</p> <p>Canned Mangoes; Canned Pineapples; Canned Fruit Cocktails*; Canned Tropical Fruit Salad*; Canned Chestnuts and Canned Chesnut Puree; Canned Carrots; Canned Mushrooms**; Canned Tomatoes**;</p>	3	<p>ALINORM 99/27 paras. 51-52, 63, 66-67 & 76</p> <p>CL 1997/01-PFV and its corresponding Appendices.</p>	<p>The 19th Session of the CCPFV (Washington D.C., U.S.A., 16-20 March 1998) decided to return to Step 3 the Proposed Draft Revised Codex Standards for redrafting and incorporation of all the pertinent decisions made at that Session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Canned Fruit Cocktails and Canned Tropical Fruit Salad</i>* The 19th CCPFV decided to maintain them as separate standards. It was mentioned that although these products shared some similarities, fruit cocktail was a well defined product with significant international trade while tropical fruit salad has broader variations in its composition.²¹ • <i>Canned Mushrooms and Canned Tomatoes</i>** The 19th CCPFV took

¹⁸ ALINORM 95/37, para. 92

¹⁹ ALINORM 97/15, para. 35

²⁰ ALINORM 99/15, paras. 19

²¹ ALINORM 99/27, para. 51

Subject	Step ⁷	Document Reference	Comments
Processed Tomato Concentrates; Pickled Cucumbers (Cucumber Pickles); Table Olives***; Dried Apricots****; Dates; Raisins; Grated Desiccated Coconuts; Unshelled Pistachio Nuts; Dried Edible Fungi; and Edible Fungi and Fungus Products.			<p>no decision on whether or not to include canned mushrooms or canned tomatoes in a general standard for canned vegetables. It requested the Codex Secretariat to arrange the drafting of the standard based on the decision taken at that session.²²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Table Olives</i>*** The 19th CCPFV noted the long-standing cooperation between the Committee and the International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) in the elaboration of the Standard for Table Olives and therefore, it request the Codex Secretariat to advise the IOOC of the proposals to revise the present standard and to cooperate with the IOOC in the preparation of an appropriate draft.²³ <li>• <i>Dried Apricots</i> (and other dried fruits/vegetables when appropriate)**** The 19th CCPFV noted the ongoing work by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) in this area and the previous close cooperation with the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. It was stressed that duplication of

²² ALINORM 99/27 para. 63

²³ ALINORM 99/27 para. 67

²⁴ ALINORM 99/27 para. 69

Subject	Step ⁷	Document Reference	Comments
			work should be avoided ²⁴ .
Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Stone Fruits	3	ALINORM 99/27, paras. 44 & 52 and App. IV	<p>The 19th Session of CCPFV (Washington D.C., U.S.A., 16-20 March 1998) decided to combine the Proposed Draft Standards for Canned Apricots, Canned Peaches and Canned Plums into a Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Canned Stone Fruits based on a draft provided by the Codex Secretariat. It agreed to circulate the Proposed Draft at Step 3 for comments pending approval of its elaboration by the CCEXEC.²⁵</p> <p>The 45th Session of the CCEXEC (Rome, Italy, 3-5 June 1998) approved the elaboration of a Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Canned Stone Fruits as new work to be developed by CCPFV to replace the existing Codex Standards for Canned Apricots, Canned Peaches and Canned Plums and cover canned stone fruits of genus <i>Prunus</i>.²⁶</p>

²⁵ ALINORM 99/27, paras. 44 & 52 and App. IV

²⁶ ALINORM 99/3, para. 26 & App. 3

Subject	Step ⁷	Document Reference	Comments
Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Chutney**	2		<p>The 8th CCASIA (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27-31 January 1992), agreed to ask approval to initiate the development of a Codex Standard for Chutney⁹, which was granted by the CCEXEC at its 39th Session (Geneva, Switzerland, 30 June-3 July 1993). This decision was made with the understanding that following the preparation of an initial draft by the CCASIA, further development of the standard should be entrusted to the CCPFV. The CCEXEC's attention was drawn to the existing Codex Standard for Mango Chutney which should be amended if necessary to accommodate other varieties of chutney.¹⁰</p> <p>The 11th CCASIA (Chiang Rai, Thailand, 16-19 December 1997) considered the proposed draft at Step 4 and noting that the 19th CCPFV would consider a Proposed Draft Revised Standard for Mango Chutney, it decided to refer the Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Chutney to the CCPFV for integration with the Standard for Mango Chutney.²⁷</p> <p>The Codex Secretariat drafted a Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Chutney utilizing the texts of the Proposed Draft Revised Codex Standard for Mango Chutney** and that for Chutney to cover all varieties of chutney for consideration by the 19th Session of the CCPFV²⁸.</p> <p>However, in view of time constraints, the Committee could not consider the combined text. The 45th Session of the CCEXEC confirmed that the proposed draft revised standard for mango chutney and the proposed draft standard for chutney would be integrated.²⁹</p>

²⁷ ALINORM 99/15, para. 19

²⁸ CX/PFV 98/6-Add.2

²⁹ ALINORM 99/3, para. 33

Subject	Step ⁷	Document Reference	Comments
Proposed Draft Codex Standards for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canned Citrus Fruits; - Canned Berry Fruits; - Canned Vegetables; and - Jam, Jellies and Marmalades. 	2	ALINORM 99/27 paras. 50, 63, 66 & 76 respectively.	<p>The 19th Session of CCPFV (Washington D.C., U.S.A., 16-20 March 1998) agreed that standards should be elaborated for:³⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Canned Citrus Fruits</i> (to replace the existing Codex standards for Canned Grapefruit and Canned Mandarin Oranges); • <i>Canned Berry Fruits</i> (to replace the existing Codex Standards for Canned Raspberries and Canned Strawberries.); • <i>Canned Vegetables</i> (to replace the existing Codex Standards for Canned Asparagus, Canned Carrots, Canned Green Beans and Wax Beans, Canned Green Peas, Canned Palmito, Canned Mature Processed Peas, and Canned Sweet Corn); and • <i>Jam, Jellies and Marmalades</i> (to replace the existing Codex Standards for Jam -Fruit Preserves- and Jellies and for Citrus Marmalade). <p>The 45th Session of the CCEXEC (Rome, Italy, 3-5 June 1998) approved the elaboration of Codex standards for the above groups of products as new work to be developed by CCPFV.²⁵</p>
Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Soy Sauce	2		<p>The 19th CCPFV's session (Washington D.C., U.S.A., 16-20 March 1998) agreed to seek approval of the Executive Committee to elaborate a Codex Standard for Soy Sauce to cover fermented soy sauce with the understanding that Japan in collaboration with the Republic of Korea would prepare a Proposed Draft Standard for circulation and comments.³¹</p> <p>The standardization of this product was agreed to by 45th Session of the Executive Committee as new work (Rome, Italy, 3-5 June 1998) to be</p>

³⁰ ALINORM 99/27 paras. 50, 63, 66 & 76

³¹ ALINORM 99/27 para. 75

Subject	Step ⁷	Document Reference	Comments
			carried out by CCPFV. ²⁵
Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Dried Figs	1		The 13 th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa (November 1998) proposed the elaboration of a standard for dried figs. ³² The 23 rd Session of the Commission approved it as new work under the CCPFV. ³³

³² ALINORM 99/28, para. 77.

³³ ALINORM 99/37, Appendix VIII.

APPENDIX II

**EXPORT AND PRODUCTION INFORMATION ON
PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (FAOSTAT)**

	Export (1998)		Production (1997)	No of Producing Countries ³⁴
	Value (1000\$)	Quantity (Mt)	Quantity (MT)	
Canned Applesauce				
Canned Pears				
Canned Stone Fruits (apricot, peach, plum, cherry)				
Canned Citrus Fruits (grapefruit, mandarin orange)				
Canned Berry Fruits (raspberry, strawberry)				
Canned Mangoes				
Canned Pineapple	476 621	758 634	1 960 737	21
Canned Fruit Cocktail				
Canned Tropical Fruit Salad				
Canned Chestnuts and Canned Chestnut Puree				
Canned Vegetables (green bean and wax beans, sweet corn, asparagus, green peas, mature processed peas, palmito)				
Canned Bamboo Shoots ³⁵	38 380	44 079		
Canned Mushrooms	505 027	386 719	526 535	16
Canned Tomatoes ³⁶	436 667	889 453		
Kimchi ³⁷	44 191	11 090		
Jam (Fruit preserves), Jellies and Marmalade				
Chutney (including Mango chutney)				
Soy sauce	157 332	155 719		
Pickled Cucumbers (Cucumber Pickles)				
Table Olives ³⁸	691 141	413 828	609 279	14
Processed Tomato Concentrates ³⁹	1 266 131	1 485 989	1 594 013	33
Dried Apricots	148 700	58 049	78 921	5
Dates	287 240	475 529	4 787 230	30
Raisins	694 184	547 022	1 107 128	19

³⁴ Countries producing more than 1000 Mt in the year 1997.

³⁵ Import into Japan in 1986 (CX/ASIA 92/14). It was indicated in CX/ASIS 92/14 that the United States of America imported equally large volume of canned bamboo shoots.

³⁶ Data provided by the World Processing Tomato Council.

³⁷ Export from the Republic of Korea in 1994 (CX/ASIA 96/10)

³⁸ Trade figures for preserved olives

³⁹ Trade figures for tomato paste

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Dried Figs	110 509	62 957	131 079	12
Grated Desiccated Coconut ⁴⁰	231 625	249 562	231 765	10
Unshelled Pistachio Nuts	590 591	152 719	332 922	8
Dried Edible Fungi ⁴¹	283 114	42 351	54 746	5
Edible Fungi and Fungus Products				

⁴⁰ Trade figures for desiccated coconut

⁴¹ Trade figures for dried mushrooms.