

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
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World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

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STATUS OF WORK ON THE REVISION OF CODEX STANDARDS FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

Introduction

1. This information is presented as a background document to provide the Committee with an update on the status of work of the revision of Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables. The paper is aimed at assisting the Committee in planning its future work as regards the review of the remaining standards for processed fruits and vegetables and up-taking of work on new standards.

Work output of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in relation to the revision of Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables

2. Since the re-establishment of the Committee in 1998, the CCPFV has been revising and grouping, when possible, existing Codex standards for processed fruit and vegetables into more general, horizontal standards. This work has mainly been carried out on the revision of the standards for canned fruits and vegetables. Some work on the conversion of regional standards into worldwide standards has also been undertaken. However, the main focus of the work remains with the completion of the review / revision of the existing individual standards for processed fruits and vegetables.

3. At its 25th Session in 2010, the Committee considered a report of a working group on priorities on how to carry out future work on other standards for processed fruits and vegetables and agreed to prioritize work on the development of a Codex Standard for Certain Canned Fruits and a Codex Standard for Certain Quick Frozen Vegetables.¹

4. The Standard for Certain Canned Fruits currently groups existing individual standards for canned mangoes, pears and pineapples and the structure containing general provisions applicable across canned fruits followed by annexes addressing specific issues related to singular products would allow further additions of new canned fruits in the future. This approach is also consistent with the one taken in the development of the Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables.

5. The development of a Codex Standard for Certain Canned Fruits would lead to a few canned fruit standards e.g. canned berry fruits, canned fruit salads (mixed fruits), etc. and a few very specific canned standards, e.g. canned chestnuts and chestnut puree, mango chutney, etc., for review and subsequent revision by the Committee if appropriate.

6. The Standard for Certain Quick Frozen Vegetables also follows the approach taken in the development of the standards for certain canned fruits and certain canned vegetables and comprises eleven annexes specific to some quick frozen vegetables.

7. The development of this Standard will finalize work on the revision of the existing individual standards for quick frozen vegetables (see the Annex on work output of the CCPFV between 1998 – 2010).

Pending work on the review / revision of Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables

Remaining canned fruits and quick frozen fruits

8. The 25th session of the Committee noted the proposal of the working group on priorities regarding prioritization of future work on the development of standards for canned berry fruits, quick frozen fruits and canned mixed fruits following completion of standards for certain canned fruits and certain quick frozen vegetables.²

9. Based on the outcome of its 25th session, the Committee may wish to reflect on the appropriateness to follow-up work on the development on some or all of the standards listed in paragraph 8.

¹ REP11/PFV, paras. 116-177. REP11/CAC, Appendix VI.

² REP11/PFV, para. 112.

10. In considering future work on the development of horizontal standards for these commodities, the Committee may also wish to reflect on the following:

- Canned berry fruits – whether the revision should address only the existing individual standards for certain canned berries or whether there might be an opportunity to include other relevant berry fruits in the development of a more comprehensive horizontal standard for these products.
- Quick frozen fruits – the same consideration presented for canned berry fruits applies.
- Canned mixed fruits – it seems that international trade is well defined for canned tropical fruit salad and canned fruit cocktail however the Committee may wish to consider whether some other combinations of mixed fruits are available at present in international trade for inclusion in a standard for mixed canned fruits.

Other processed fruits

11. The Committee may wish to consider how to approach the review of the remaining standards for canned chestnuts and chestnut puree, mango chutney and pickled cucumbers³.

12. The Codex Standard for Pickled Fruits and Vegetables specifically excludes pickled cucumber from the scope. The Committee may wish to consider the priority for review of this standard in order to determine the need for their revision.

13. As regards mango chutney, the Committee may wish to consider the possibility to develop a general standard for chutneys to cover fruits and vegetables either together or separately. An alternative approach could be the revision of the standard for mango chutney only on the understanding that if a standard for chutneys is developed the approach taken for the development of the standards for certain canned vegetables will be followed.

Other processed vegetables

14. The Committee may wish to consider how to approach the review of the standards for fungi and fungus products, edible and the standard for fungi, dried, edible to determine whether they could be combined into a single general standard for fungi and fungus products or whether they should be kept separated and the review of the standard for fungi, dried should be done in the framework of the review of the standards for dry/dried produce.

Dry/dried produce

15. There are a few standards for dry/dried produce developed by the CCPFV namely: apricots, dates, raisins and pistachio nuts. All of them were developed in the early 80s and there may therefore be a need for their review to determine the need for their revision.

16. The Committee may wish to consider whether work on dry/dried produce may deserve particular attention depending on how work on this lot of products should be approached. The Committee may therefore consider if the review / revision of existing standards for processed fruits and vegetables should first be completed for remaining canned fruits/vegetables, quick frozen fruits and other processed fruits and vegetables (excluding dry/dried produce) before undertaking work on dry/dried produce. Alternatively, the Committee may decide on the revision of the existing standards for dry/dried produce upon request from a Codex member / observer until such a time the revision of the remaining processed fruits and vegetables is completed.

17. With regard to the review / revision of dry/dried produce itself, the question may be whether the work should be limited to the four existing standards or should be expanded upon specific requests tabled by Codex members / observers or, based on a broad consultation with Codex members, to determine the need for more comprehensive work in this area and if so, to identify those key dry/dried produce relevant to international trade that should be taken up for standardization or any other combined approach or more suitable approach for future work on standardization of this set of products.

18. It is noted that the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe has been actively working in the development of quality standards for dry/dried produce⁴ through their Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce and that the products standardized by the UNECE could be used as a starting point for the development of worldwide Codex standards for dry/dried produce if Codex members feel that more comprehensive work should be undertaken in this area.

19. In this regard, it is also noted that the layout for the UNECE standards for dry and dried produce does not match the format for Codex commodity standards⁵ that usually applies to Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables including dry/dried produce. Should the Committee wish to further examine the issue of how to approach future work on standardization of dry/dried produce there could be some merit in also exploring the possibility to adapt the UNECE layout for dry/dried produce⁴ to the Codex format in order to facilitate harmonization and use of UNECE standards as the basis for Codex standards for dry/dried produce.

³ Codex standards are available for downloading at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/standards/en/>. Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables are also available at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/committees-task-forces/en/?provide=committeeDetail&idList=12>

⁴ UNECE standards for dry/dried produce, including the layout, are available for downloading at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/dry/ddp-standards.html>

⁵ The Format for Codex Commodity Standards is laid down in the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission available for downloading at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/procedures-strategies/procedural-manual/en/>

Codes of hygienic practice

20. There are a number of codes of hygienic practice whose revision will be taken up by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene e.g. Code of Hygienic Practice for Canned Fruit and Vegetable Products, Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Fruits, Code of Hygienic Practice for Desiccated Coconut, Code of Hygienic Practice for Dehydrated Fruits and Vegetables including Edible Fungi, Code of Hygiene Practice for Tree Nuts, etc.⁶ Therefore, no action is required from the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in relation to the revision of these codes.

21. The table below shows the pending work on existing individual Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables.

Pending work on Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables and examples of possible merging of standards

Canned Fruits	
1. Raspberries, canned	Berry fruits, canned
2. Strawberries, canned	
1. Fruit cocktail, canned	Fruit salad, canned
3. Tropical fruit salad, canned	Canned mixed fruits
Quick Frozen Fruits	
4. Strawberries	Quick Frozen Fruits
5. Raspberries	
6. Bilberries	
7. Blueberries	
8. Peaches	
Miscellaneous Processed Fruits and Vegetables	
9. Pickled Cucumber	
10. Canned chestnuts and chestnut puree	
11. Mango chutney	
12. Fungi and fungus products, edible	
Dry/Dried Produce (Fruits / Vegetables)	
13. Apricots	
14. Fungi, dried, edible	
15. Dates	
16. Pistachio nuts	
17. Raisins	

Conclusion

22. Based on the above information and considerations, the Committee is invited to consider its work for the next session and if possible a work planning for its future work with a view to completion of the review / revision of the existing standards for processed fruits and vegetables.

⁶ See REP11/FH, para. 143. In addition, see the Provisional Agenda for the 44th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, 12-16 November 2012), in particular Agenda Item 8(c) and related working document. To download these documents please visit the Codex website at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/codex-home/en/> or direct ftp-link: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/ccfh/ccfh44>.

ANNEX
STATUS OF WORK

**Work output of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables
(1998-2010)**

Revised PFV Standards	Existing PFV standards	Explanatory Notes
Applesauce, canned CODEX STAN 17-1981, Rev. 2001	Applesauce, canned CODEX STAN 17-1981	Revised by CCPFV at its 19 th & 20 th sessions (1998 & 2000). Adopted as final standard by the 24 th CAC (2001).
Pears, canned CODEX STAN 61-1981, Rev. 2001	Pears, canned CODEX STAN 61-1981	Revised by CCPFV at its 19 th and 20 th sessions (1998 & 2000). Adopted as final standard by the 24 th CAC (2001).
Kimchi CODEX STAN 223-2001	-----	Developed by CCASIA. Finalization as worldwide standard by CCPFV. Discussed at the 20 th CCPFV (2000). Adopted as final standard by the 24 th CAC (2001).
Bamboo shoots, canned CODEX STAN 241-2003	-----	Developed by CCASIA. Finalization as worldwide standard by CCPFV. Discussed at the 20 th & 21 st CCPFV (2000 & 2002). Adopted as final standard by the 26 th CAC (2003). Revised as a single standard as the scope of the Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables excludes vegetables that are lacto-fermented, pickled or preserved in vinegar while the Standard for Canned Bamboo Shoots refers to bamboo shoots in packing media with or without fermentation. The revision aimed at including provisions for packing media and other relevant provisions that commonly apply to standards for canned vegetables. Agreed for revision at the 24 th CCPFV (2008) and finalized by the 25 th CCPFV (2010) for final adoption by the 34 th CAC (2011).
Aqueous coconut products – coconut cream and coconut milk CODEX STAN 240-2003	-----	Developed by CCASIA. Finalization as worldwide standard by CCPFV. Discussed at the 20 th & 21 st CCPFV (2000 & 2002). Adopted as final standard by the 26 th CAC (2003).
Stone fruits, canned CODEX STAN 242-2003	Peaches, canned CODEX STAN 14-1981 Plums, canned CODEX STAN 59-1981 Apricots, canned CODEX STAN 129-1981 <i>In addition cherries, canned</i>	The Committee decide to start work on a single general standard covering stone fruits at its 19 th Session (1998) and considered the standard at its 20 th & 21 st sessions (2000 & 2002). Adopted as final standard by the 26 th CAC (2003).
Packing media for canned fruits, guidelines CAC/GL 21-2003	Packing Media, composition and labelling	The provisions for packing media were simplified by the CCPFV at its 20 th & 21 st sessions (2000 & 2002). Adopted by the 26 th CAC (2003).

Revised PFV Standards	Existing PFV standards	Explanatory Notes
Fruits and vegetables, pickled CODEX STAN 260-2007	-----	Developed by CCASIA. Finalization as worldwide standard by CCPFV. Discussed at the 20 th , 21 st , 22 nd & 23 rd CCPFV (2000, 2002, 2004, 2006). Adopted as final standard by the 30 th CAC (2007).
Tomatoes, preserved CODEX STAN 13-1981, Rev. 2007	Tomatoes, canned CODEX STAN 13-1981	The CCPFV agreed to start new work on the revision of the Standard for Canned Tomatoes at its 19 th Session (1998). The Standard could not be discussed at the 20 & 21 st (2000 & 2002) due to finalization of other standards. The Standard was first considered at the 22 nd session (2004) and finalized by the 23 rd session (2006). Adopted as final standard by the 30 th CAC (2007).
Processed tomato concentrates CODEX STAN 17-1981, Rev. 2007	Processed tomato concentrates CODEX STAN 17-1981	The CCPFV agreed to start new work on the revision of the Standard for Canned Tomatoes at its 19 th Session (1998). The Standard could not be discussed at the 20 & 21 st (2000 & 2002) due to finalization of other standards. The Standard was first considered at the 22 nd session (2004) and finalized by the 23 rd session (2006). Adopted as final standard by the 30 th CAC (2007).
Certain citrus fruits, canned CODEX STAN 254-2007	Grapefruit, canned CODEX STAN 15-1981 Mandarin oranges, canned CODEX STAN 68-1981 <i>In addition grapefruits and sweet oranges, canned</i>	The CCPFV agreed to start new work on the revision of the Standard for Canned Citrus Fruits at its 19 th Session (1998). The Standard could not be discussed at the 20 & 21 st (2000 & 2002) due to finalization of other standards. The Standard was first considered at the 22 nd session (2004) and finalized by the 23 rd session (2006). Adopted as final standard by the 30 th CAC (2007).
Jams, jellies and marmalades	Citrus, marmalade CODEX STAN 80-1981 Jams (fruit preserves) and Jellies CODEX STAN 79-1981 <i>In addition non-citrus marmalades</i>	The CCPFV agreed to start new work on the revision of the Standard for Canned Citrus Fruits at its 19 th Session (1998). The Standard could not be discussed at the subsequent sessions of the Committee due to finalization of other standards. The Standard was first considered at the 22 nd session (2004) and finalized by the 24 th session (2008). Adopted by the 32 nd CAC (2009).
Certain vegetables, canned	Asparagus, canned CODEX STAN 56-1981 Carrots, canned CODEX STAN 116-1981 Green peas, canned CODEX STAN 58-1981 Green beans and wax beans CODEX STAN 16-1981	The CCPFV agreed to start new work on the revision of the Standard for Canned Vegetables at its 19 th Session (1998). The Standard could not be discussed at the subsequent sessions of the Committee due to finalization of other standards. The Standard was first considered at the 22 nd session (2004) and finalized by the 25 th session (2010). Adopted at the 32 nd CAC (2009).

Revised PFV Standards	Existing PFV standards	Explanatory Notes
	<p>Mature processed peas CODEX STAN 81-1981 Palmito, canned CODEX STAN 144-1985</p> <p>Sweet corn, canned CODEX STAN 18-1981</p> <p><i>In addition baby (young) corn, canned and general provisions for packing media for canned vegetables</i></p>	This work completes the revision of individual Codex standards for canned vegetables.
Certain vegetables, canned (inclusion of an Annex on Canned Mushrooms)	Mushrooms, canned CODEX STAN 55-1981	The 24 th CCPFV (2008) agreed to propose new work on an Annex for Canned Mushrooms for inclusion in the Codex Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables. The 32 nd CAC (2009) agreed to this proposal. The Annex was adopted by the 34 th CAC (2011).
Desiccated Coconut	Grated Desiccated Coconut CODEX STAN 177-1991	The 24 th CCPFV (2008) agreed to propose new work on revision of the Standard for Grated Desiccated Coconut. The 32 nd CAC (2009) agreed to this proposal. The Standard was adopted by the 34 th CAC (2011) and cover all styles for desiccated coconut including grated desiccated coconut.
Certain fruits, canned (draft)	<p>Mangoes, canned (CODEX STAN 159-1987)</p> <p>Pears, canned CODEX STAN 61-1981, Rev. 2001</p> <p>Pineapples, canned (CODEX STAN 42-1981)</p>	<p>The 25th CCPFV (2010) agreed to propose revision and these standards by developing a horizontal standard for canned fruits. The 34th CAC (2011) approved this proposal as new work for the CCPFV. Timeframe for completion of work 27th CCPFV (2014).</p> <p>This work will complete the revision of existing individual standards for canned fruits (except canned berry fruits and canned fruit salads/mixed fruits which are pending for revision)</p>
Certain quick frozen vegetables (draft)	<p>Broccoli, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 110-1981)</p> <p>Brussels sprouts, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 112-1981)</p> <p>Carrots, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 140-1981)</p> <p>Cauliflower, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 111-1981)</p> <p>Corn-on-the-cob, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 133-1981)</p> <p>French fried potatoes, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 114-1981)</p>	<p>The 25th CCPFV (2010) agreed to propose revision and these standards by developing a horizontal standard for canned fruits. The 34th CAC (2011) approved this proposal as new work for the CCPFV. Timeframe for completion of work 27th CCPFV (2014).</p> <p>This work will complete the revision of existing individual standards for quick frozen vegetables.</p>

Revised PFV Standards	Existing PFV standards	Explanatory Notes
	<p>Green and wax beans, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 113-1981)</p> <p>Leek, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 104-1981)</p> <p>Peas, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 41-1981)</p> <p>Spinach, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 77-1981)</p> <p>Whole kernel corn, quick frozen (CODEX STAN 132-1981)</p>	