



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

**27<sup>th</sup> Session  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America,  
8 – 12 September 2014**

**Comments in reply to CL 2014/18-PFV on the:  
PACKING MEDIA FOR PICKLED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

**Submitted by:  
Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, European Union, Thailand**

**Brazil**

In regard to the aforementioned request, Brazil would like to support the proposal to align the packing media for pickled vegetables with the provisions for packing media for canned vegetables and to merge the provisions of other permitted ingredients with the provisions for packing media as outlined in ANNEX II.

Assessing the particularities of a pickled product, we consider that the similarities of this Standard to the Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables (CODEX STAN 297-2009) do not suggest the unconditional insertion of section 3.1.3 of CODEX STAN 297-2009.

In that sense, ANNEX II encompasses the changes that are needed to incorporate the overall consensus achieved for the provisions for packing media of both CODEX STAN 297-2009 and the Codex Standard for Pickled Fruits and Vegetables.

**Costa Rica**

Costa Rica has examined the document and has no comments. We therefore supports the document.

**Egypt**

We would like to inform you that Egypt support Annex 1 where the definition 3.1.2.2(a) specifies the composition of basic ingredients (water,oil,vinger) which comply with the definition of packing media (3.1.2), The other ingredients listed in 3.1.3 can be considered as "other permitted ingredients" and not listed as packing media where it contain ingredients usually added separately from the packing media.

**European Union**

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) generally support the approach proposed in Annex II of CL 2014/18-PFV for the provisions on packing media for pickled fruits and vegetables (CODEX STA 260-2007) with certain modifications:

**2.1 PRODUCT DEFINITION**

Pickled fruits and vegetables is the product:

(d) packed with or without a suitable liquid packing medium (~~e.g., oil, brine or acidic media such as vinegar~~) *[redundant, as these ingredients are now listed in point 3.1.2.2 b]* as specified in Section 3.1.2, with ingredients appropriate to the type and variety of pickled product, to ensure an equilibrium pH of less than 4.6.

**3 ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS**

**3.1 COMPOSITION**

**3.1.1 Basic Ingredients**

Fruits and vegetables and liquid packing medium when appropriate, as defined in Sections 2.1(a), 2.1(d) and 3.1.2, in combination with one or more of the other permitted ingredients listed in Section 3.1.3.

**3.1.2 Packing Media**

3.1.2.1 For pickled fruits, in accordance with the Guidelines on Packing Media for Canned Fruits (CAC/GL 51-2003).

3.1.2.2 For pickled vegetables, in accordance with the following provisions:

**(a) Basic Ingredients**

Water, and if necessary salt ~~or oil or acidic media such as vinegar~~. *[redundant, as these ingredients are listed in point 3.1.2.2 b]*

**(b) Other Permitted Ingredients**

Packing media for pickled vegetables may contain ingredients subject to labelling requirements of Section 8 and may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) foodstuff with sweetening properties such as sugars (including syrups) as defined in the Standard for Sugars (CODEX STAN 212-1999), honey as defined in the Standard for Honey (CODEX STAN 12-1981) or juices and/or nectars as defined in the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CODEX STAN 247-2005) ~~and;~~
- (2) aromatics plants, spices or extracts thereof, seasoning (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for spices or culinary herbs);
- (3) vinegar;
- (4) oil (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for vegetable oils);
- (5) tomato puree (in accordance with the Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrates CODEX STAN 57-1981);
- ~~(6) cereal grains (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for cereals);~~
- ~~(7) dried fruits (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for dried fruits);~~
- (86) malt extract;
- ~~(9) nuts (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for dry produce);~~
- ~~(10) pulses (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for pulses);~~
- (147) sauce (e.g., fish sauce);
- (128) soy sauce;
- (139) other ingredients as appropriate.

**3.1.3 Other Permitted Ingredients**

- (1) cereal grains (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for cereals);
- (2) dried fruits (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for dried fruits);
- (3) nuts (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for dry produce);
- (4) pulses (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for pulses);
- (5) other ingredients as appropriate.

*[these ingredients cannot be considered as part of packing media]*

**8. LABELLING**

8.2.3 The name of the product shall include the indication of the packing medium as set out in Section 2.1(d).

Concerning the question in paragraph 7 of CL 2014/18-PFV on food additive sweeteners in packing media, the EUMS are of the view that they should be listed under the food additive provisions in section 4 of the standard if technologically justified.

**Thailand**

We are of the view that specific provisions for packing media for pickled vegetables should be developed for the Standard for Pickled Fruits and Vegetables. Our preference on the development of the packing media is to align the provisions of packing media for pickled vegetables with the provisions for packing media for canned vegetables including the inclusion of other permitted ingredients as part of the packing media formulation as proposed in annex II. However, section 3.1.2.2 (a) could be removed and the list of basic ingredients should be combined as part of section 2.1 (a).

Following this proposal, there is no need to retain the heading of (b) "Other Permitted Ingredients" to avoid confusion with "Other Permitted Ingredients" in section 3.1.3.

So section 3.1.2.2 would amend as follows:

~~"3.1.2.2 For pickled vegetables, in accordance with the following provisions:~~

~~(a) Basic Ingredients~~

~~Water, and if necessary salt or oil or acidic media such as vinegar~~

~~(b) Other Permitted Ingredients~~

Packing media for pickled vegetables may contain ingredients subject to labelling requirements of Section 8 and may include, but is not limited to:

- (1).....
- (2)....."