

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 12

CX/CAC 20/43/12

April 2020

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-third Session

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION BY CODEX COMMITTEES

MATTERS FOR ACTION

CCEURO31 – *FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe*

Language policy in CCEURO¹

CCEURO31 agreed: (i) to add Russian as an official language for CCEURO following the changes in the Codex membership in the CCEURO region over the last two decades resulting in many new Members having Russian as official language and as lingua franca; and (ii) to work with four languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian) for which translation is all funded by the Codex Secretariat budget noting that if this proposal is agreed by CAC, the Secretariat will propose how to accommodate the additional costs sustainably.

The Commission **is invited to consider** this request.

CCCPL – *Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes*

The section on grain size in the *Standard for Quinoa*

The summary report on status of work for CCCPL as well as corresponding recommendations are included in Appendix I of this document.

The Commission **is invited to consider**:

- Removing Section 3.2.7 Grain Size in the Standard for Quinoa (see paragraph 10 of Annex 1)

Status of CCPL

CAC38 agreed to limit the work of CCCPL to the development of the standard for quinoa and agreed that after completion of such work, it should be adjourned *sine die*.²

The Commission **is invited to consider**:

- Adjourning CCCPL *sine die*.

¹ REP20/EURO, para. 110

² REP15/CAC, para. 93

Report on Status of Work and Recommendation for Future CCCPL Activities³

I. BACKGROUND

1. The 38th Session (July 2015) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC38) approved new work on an international standard for quinoa and agreed to reactivate the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL) to work by correspondence within the timeframe allocated for the completion of the standard as presented in the project document⁴.
2. CAC38 also agreed to establish an electronic working group (EWG), chaired by Bolivia and co-chaired by the United States, to proceed with the development of the initial draft. CAC38 further agreed to limit the work of CCCPL to the development of the standard for quinoa and agreed that after completion of such work, it should be adjourned *sine die*².
3. CAC40 (July 2017) adopted the draft standard for quinoa at Step 5 and established an EWG, chaired by Bolivia and co-chaired by the United States, to continue the work and address the outstanding issues⁵.
4. CAC41 (July 2018) agreed to⁶:
 - (i) adopt, subject to the endorsement of the labeling provisions by CCCFL45, the draft standard for quinoa at Step 8, with the exception of the provisions for moisture content and grain size, which were returned to Step 6; and
 - (ii) establish an EWG, chaired by Costa Rica, and co-chaired by Chile and the United States, to continue work on the provisions for moisture content and grain size.
5. CAC42 (July 2019) agreed to⁷:
 - (i) adopt, at Step 8, the provisions for moisture content with the deletion of the sentence "Governments accepting the Standard are requested to indicate and justify the requirements in force in their country" from the accompanying note; and
 - (ii) return the section on grain size to Step 6 for further consideration by CCCPL, which would conduct its work by correspondence.
6. CAC42 also noted that⁸:
 - (i) the standard for quinoa would be published with a note to indicate that the section on grain size was to be developed; and
 - (ii) if consensus could not be reached at the next session, the section on grain size would be removed.
7. In September 2019, a Circular Letter (CL 2019/92-CPL) was issued requesting comments at Step 6 on Section 3.2.7 Grain Size in the *Standard for Quinoa (CXS 333-2019)*. In response to CL 2019/92-CPL, six member countries submitted comments:
 - (i) Canada, Cuba, Thailand, and the United States supported deleting Section 3.2.7 Grain Size in the *Standard for Quinoa*.
 - (ii) Bolivia supported maintaining Section 3.2.7 Grain Size in the *Standard for Quinoa*.
 - (iii) Costa Rica submitted a statement that it had no comments at this time.

II. CURRENT SITUATION

8. In January 2020, CL 2020/25-CPL was issued requesting comments on the analysis of responses to CL 2019/92-CPL and the CCCPL Chairperson's proposal to delete Section 3.2.7 Grain Size in the *Standard for Quinoa*. In response to CL 2020/25-CPL, eight member countries submitted comments⁹:
 - (i) Canada, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Republic of Korea, Peru, and the United States supported deleting Section 3.2.7 Grain Size in the *Standard for Quinoa*.

³ This report has been prepared by the Chairperson of CCCPL

⁴ REP15/CAC, para. 92

⁵ REP17, para. 81

⁶ REP18, para. 56

⁷ REP19, para. 44

⁸ REP19, para.45

⁹ Comments are available [here](#)

- (ii) Bolivia supported maintaining Section 3.2.7 Grain Size in the *Standard for Quinoa*.
- (iii) Chile supported maintaining Section 3.2.7 Grain Size in the *Standard for Quinoa*, without including the extra-large size.

III. RECOMMENDATION

9. Based on the comments received in response to CL2020/25-CPL, consensus could not be reached on whether to maintain or delete Section 3.2.7 Grain Size in the *Standard for Quinoa*.

10. The CCCPL Chairperson recommends removal of Section 3.2.7 Grain Size in the *Standard for Quinoa*, in accordance with the CAC42 conclusion that if consensus could not be reached at the next session, the section would be removed (See Annex I).

DRAFT SECTION 3.2.7 GRAIN SIZE IN THE STANDARD FOR QUINOA

3.2.7 Size

Grain Size	Range mm
Extra Large	Greater than 2.0 mm
Large	Greater than 1.7 to 2.0 mm
Medium	1.4 to 1.7 mm
Small	Less than 1.4 mm