



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

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DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE REVISION OF THE CODEX STANDARD FOR OLIVE OILS AND OLIVE POMACE OILS (CODEX STAN 33-1981)

(Prepared by the European Union in collaboration with International Olive Council (IOC) and its member countries)

INTRODUCTION

There have been significant technological and scientific developments since the last major revision of the Codex Standard (CODEX STAN 33-1981) in 2003, therefore it is timely to review the standard to take into account these developments.

The new work will add to the knowledge of the composition and quality characteristics of olive oil products and consolidate international standards to enable product quality control, facilitate international trade, enhance consumer protection and prevent fraudulent and misleading practices and adulteration. To this end quality and authenticity verification of olive oil products should be based on the latest scientific developments.

The proposed revision of the standard (CODEX STAN 33-1981) will enhance harmonization between relevant international standards. The Codex standard may be used as a benchmark for standards by member countries in setting their domestic regulations. Enhancing the alignment of national and international standards is essential to facilitate international trade and to promote and ensure fair trade practices and consumer protection.

Currently producing countries and consuming countries often apply national and international standards which differ on substantial aspects related to quality and authenticity parameters and analytical methods. Most of the producing countries use the standard of the International Olive Council (IOC).

BACKGROUND

In the last twenty years the world production of olive oil has increased by 22% and consumption spread to more and more consuming countries.

According to the data published by IOC¹, global olive oil production in the 2015/16 crop year (October to September) amounted to 3 160 kilotonnes (kt). Producers were led by the top five producers of the European Union (2 322 kt, approximately 73% of global production), Syria (110 kt, 3.5%), Tunisia (140 kt, 4.4%), Turkey (143 kt, 4.5%) and Morocco (130 kt, 4.1%). In the same crop year, the top five (provisional data) exporters were the EU (610 kt, approximately 73.5% of global exports), Tunisia (100 kt, 12%), Morocco (16.5 kt, 2%), Turkey (20 kt, 2.4%) and Argentina (30.5 kt, 3.7%).

International trade in olive oil has sharply developed. Over the last twenty years it increased by 88% in volume and by 420% in value² to reach a total volume of imports of 822.5 kilotonnes in 2015/16 marketing year (October to September), for an overall value of EUR 3 209 millions in 2015. The leading five importers were the USA (314 kt, approximately 38% of global imports), the EU (119 kt, 14.5%), Brazil (50 kt, 6.1%), Japan (53.5 kt, 6.5%) and Canada (41 kt, 5%). During the same period, the main five consumers were the EU (1 618.5 kt, approximately 55%), the USA (310 kt, 10.5%), Turkey (124 kt, 4.2%), Syria (105 kt, 3.6%) and Morocco (120 kt, 4%).

¹ www.internationaloliveoil.org

² GTA (Global Trade Atlas) import value; annual series 1996-2015

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is invited to consider the proposal to revise Section 3 (Essential Composition and Quality Factors) of the Codex standard (CODEX STAN 33-1981) as well as Section 8 (Methods of analysis and sampling).

The revision of Section 3 should allow:

- keeping the pace with the state of the art achievements in olive oil production and refining technology;
- having a more effective set of tools to combat frauds;
- accommodating the greater variability of olive oils composition due to introduction of olive cultivation into new areas.

The revision of Section 8 should allow updating the appropriate references and including new methods where appropriate.

The project document is attached as Appendix to this document.

PROJECT DOCUMENT FOR NEW WORK ON THE REVISION OF THE CODEX STANDARD FOR OLIVE OILS AND OLIVE POMACE OILS (CODEX STAN 33-1981)

1. Purpose and scope of the proposed work

Review Sections 3, 8 and the appendix of the current Codex Standard for *Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils* (CODEX STAN 33-1981,) to bring them in line with latest technological and scientific progress and evolving conditions in the sector and to enhance harmonization between relevant international standards.

2. Relevance and timeliness

The proposed work falls within the terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO): "To elaborate worldwide standards for fats and oils of animal, vegetable and marine origin including margarine and olive oil."

There have been significant technological and scientific developments since the last major revision of the Codex Standard (CODEX STAN 33-1981) in 2003, therefore it is timely to review the standard to take into account these developments.

The new work will add to the knowledge of the composition and quality characteristics of olive products and consolidate international standards to enable product quality control, facilitate international trade, enhance consumer protection and prevent fraudulent and misleading practices and adulteration. To this end quality and authenticity verification of olive oil products should be based on the latest scientific developments.

3. Main aspects to be covered

The main aspect to be covered is the revision of Section 3 (Essential Composition and Quality Factors) of the Codex standard in order to:

- keep the pace with the state of the art achievements in olive oil production and refining technology;
- have a more effective set of tools to combat frauds;
- accommodate the greater variability of olive oils composition due to introduction of olive cultivation into new areas.

Another aspect to be covered is the revision of section 8 (Methods of analysis and sampling) in order to update the appropriate references and include new methods where appropriate.

4. Assessment against the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities

This new work proposal is consistent with the following criteria applicable to commodities:

- (a) Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries

In the last twenty years the world production of olive oil has increased by 22% and consumption spread to more and more consuming countries.

According to the data published by IOC³, global olive oil production in the **2015/16** crop year (October to September) amounted to 3 160 kilotonnes (kt). Producers were led by the top five producers of the European Union (2 322 kt, approximately 73% of global production), Syria (110 kt, 3.5%), Tunisia (140 kt, 4.4%), Turkey (143 kt, 4.5%) and Morocco (130 kt, 4.1%). In the same crop year, the top five (provisional data) exporters were the EU (610 kt, approximately 73.5% of global exports), Tunisia (100 kt, 12%), Morocco (16.5 kt, 2%), Turkey (20 kt, 2.4%) and Argentina (30.5 kt, 3.7%).

International trade in olive oil has sharply developed. Over the last twenty years it increased by 88% in volume and by 420% in value⁴ to reach a total volume of imports of 822.5 kilotonnes in 2015/16 marketing year (October to September), for an overall value of EUR 3 209 millions in 2015⁴. The leading five importers were the USA (314 kt, approximately 38% of global imports), the EU (119 kt, 14.5%), Brazil (50 kt, 6.1%), Japan (53.5 kt, 6.5%) and Canada (41 kt, 5%). During the same period, the main five consumers were the EU (1 618.5 kt, approximately 55%), the USA (310 kt, 10.5%), Turkey (124 kt, 4.2%), Syria (105 kt, 3.6%) and Morocco (120 kt, 4%).

³ www.internationaloliveoil.org

⁴ GTA (Global Trade Atlas) import value; annual series 1996-2015

(b) Diversification of national legislation and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade.

The Codex standard may be used as a benchmark for standards by member countries in setting their domestic regulations.

The alignment of national and international standards is essential to facilitate international trade, promote and ensure fair trade practices and consumer protection.

Currently producing countries and consuming countries often apply national and international standards which differ on substantial aspects related to quality and authenticity parameters and analytical methods. Most of the producing countries use the standard of the International Olive Council.

(c) International or regional market potential

While the EU, Tunisia, Turkey and Morocco are likely to remain the world's leading olive oil exporters in the near future, production is expected to expand considerably in a number of other countries.

(d) Amenability of the commodity to standardization

The experience with the current Codex standard, in place since 1981, has shown the amenability of olive oil to standardization.

(e) Coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards

The aim of the new work is to revise the existing Codex standard on olive oil.

(f) Number of commodities which would need separate standards indicating whether raw, semi-processed or processed

The scope of the current standard (CODEX STAN 33-1981) will remain unchanged.

(g) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field and/or suggested by the relevant international intergovernmental body(ies)

International Olive Council (IOC) has developed the following standard: COI/T.15/NC No 3/Rev. 11 TRADE STANDARD APPLYING TO OLIVE OILS AND OLIVE-POMACE OILS, and COI/T.20/Doc. No 15/Rev. 8 SENSORY ANALYSIS OF OLIVE OIL METHOD FOR THE ORGANOLEPTIC ASSESSMENT OF VIRGIN OLIVE OIL

5. Relevance to CODEX strategic Objectives

The proposed new work would contribute to ensuring fair practices in international trade in olive oil, taking into account the needs and special concerns of all countries, by satisfying the following strategic objectives and priorities elaborated in *Codex Alimentarius Commission: Strategic Plan 2014-2019*.

Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues:

Objective 1.2.2 Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.

Developing more globally representative Codex standards will help to ensure they are adopted as widely as possible by member countries and to minimize the potential negative effects of technical regulations on international trade by ensuring that they do not act as technical barriers to trade.

Objective 1.3 Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities.

1.3.2 Promote cooperation with other international governmental and non-governmental standard setting organizations to support development of relevant Codex standards and to enhance awareness, understanding and use of Codex standards.

6. Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing CODEX documents

n.a.

7. Identification of any need of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice

No specific need for any scientific advice has been identified.

8. Identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies

A contribution from the IOC in the revision of the Codex standard would be expected.

9. The Proposed Timeline for Completion of the New Work

Approval as new work:	by 40th session, CAC, 2017
Consideration of proposed Draft amendments at step 4:	by 26th session, CCFO, 2019
Submission to CAC for Adoption at Step 5:	2019
Step 7:	27 th CCFO 2021
Submission to CAC for Adoption at Step 8:	CAC 2021