

# CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 7(b)

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEx COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Forty-eighth Session

Xi'an, China, 14-18 March 2016

#### REVOCATION OF RELATED FOOD ADDITIVE PROVISIONS FROM SOME COMMODITY STANDARDS

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

##### BACKGROUND

1. The 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additive (CCFA46) agreed to remove from the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CODEX STAN 192-1995) (GSFA) seven food additives for which information on their commercial use was not provided; and had no corresponding specifications developed by JECFA, namely: ammonium acetate (INS 264), ammonium adipates (INS 359), ammonium lactate (INS 328), choline salts and esters (INS 1001), chlorine dioxide (INS 926), formic acid (INS 236) and potassium hydrogen malate (INS 351 (i)) and revoke the related provisions from the GSFA. <sup>1</sup> This proposal was endorsed by the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (CAC37).

2. However, CCFA46 did not consider making any recommendation for revoking the provisions related to these food additives when they were listed in commodity standards.

3. CCFA47<sup>2</sup> agreed to request, through a Circular Letter, information on commercial use of three compounds currently listed in the GSFA for which no corresponding specifications had been developed by JECFA, namely: potassium hydrogen sulfate (INS 515(ii)), sodium sorbate (INS 201) and calcium hydrogen sulfite (INS 227). CCFA47 agreed that, based on the information provided, CCFA48 will recommend either to a) remove from the GSFA the food additives for which information on their commercial use had not been provided; or b) include in the priority list for JECFA evaluation the others with the understanding that they would be removed from the GSFA if Members would not commit to provide data for JECFA evaluation by CCFA49.

##### REPLIES TO THE CIRCULAR LETTER AND THE PROVISIONS IN COMMODITY STANDARDS

4. The circular letter was distributed in May 2015. The comments were received only from Colombia, indicating that sodium sorbate (INS 201) is used as a preservative with maximum use of 1000 ppm. Their comments have been compiled in CX/FA 16/48/16. Late comments were also received from Malaysia (as compiled in CRD 23) and it is indicated that sodium sorbate (INS 201) is used in dried fruits, (they are easier to dissolve) at maximum use level of 500 mg/kg.

5. In order to keep the provisions for food additives in GSFA consistent with those in commodity standards or regional standard, a review on whether the two food additives for which information on use was not provided (i.e. potassium hydrogen sulfate (INS 515(ii)) and calcium hydrogen sulfite (INS 227)), together with the seven food additives revoked by CAC37 (as listed in para. 1), are included in other commodity standards have been conducted.

6. The review showed that only five food additives (out of the nine listed above) are listed in 11 commodity standards, developed by the Committees on: Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV); Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP); Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL); and the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (see Appendix I). It is noted that two of these committees are active, i.e. CCPFV and CCASIA, while the other two are currently working by correspondence on specific texts.

<sup>1</sup> REP14/FA, para 56 and Appendix XII, Part B.

<sup>2</sup> REP15/FA, para 18.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

7. Regarding potassium hydrogen sulfate (INS 515(ii)) and calcium hydrogen sulfite (INS 227), as no information has been provided on their commercial use, it is proposed that CCFA48:
- i. Remove from the GSFA: potassium hydrogen sulfate (INS 515(ii)) (from the list of sulphites in Table 1) and calcium hydrogen sulfite (INS 227) (from Table 3);
  - ii. Revoke the provision for calcium hydrogen sulfite (INS 227) in the *Standard for Instant Noodles* (CODEX STAN 249-2006);
  - iii. Recommend to:
    - CCPFV to revoke the provisions for (i) potassium hydrogen sulfate (INS 515(ii)) in the standards for *Preserved Tomatoes* (CODEX STAN 13-1981) and *Processed Tomato Concentrates* (CODEX STAN 57-1981); and (ii) calcium hydrogen sulfite (INS 227) in the standard for *Pickled Fruits and Vegetables* (CODEX STAN 260-2007) and *Jams, Jellies and Marmalades* (CODEX STAN 296-2009)
    - CCASIA to revoke the provision for calcium hydrogen sulfite (INS 227) in the *Regional Standard for Chilli Sauce* (CODEX STAN 306R-2011)
8. Regarding the food additives revoked by CCFA46, it proposed that CCFA48:
- i. Revoke the provisions for:
    - ammonium lactate (INS 328) in the *Standard for Edible Casein Products* (CODEX STAN 290-1995)
    - chlorine dioxide (INS 926) in the *Standard for Wheat Flour* (CODEX STAN 152-1985)
    - potassium hydrogen malate (INS 351 (i)) in the standards for *Mozzarella* (CODEX STAN 262-2007), *Wheat Flour* (CODEX STAN 152-1985), *Cream Cheese* (CODEX STAN 275-1973) and *Cottage Cheese* (CODEX STAN 273-1968).
9. Consistent with the approach used by CCFA46, it is also recommended that CCFA48 include sodium sorbate (INS 201) in the priority list for JECFA with the understanding that countries should make a firm commitment to provide data for drafting the specifications to JECFA by the CCFA49.
10. The Committee **is invited to consider** these recommendations.

## Appendix I

**.Standards containing provisions for nine food additives and their corresponding committees**

<b>Food additives</b>	<b>Name of standards</b>	<b>corresponding committees</b>
Potassium hydrogen sulfate (INS 515(ii))	<i>Standard for Preserved Tomatoes</i> (CODEX STAN 13-1981)	CCPFV <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrates</i> (CODEX STAN 57-1981)	
Calcium hydrogen sulfite (INS 227)	<i>Standard for Instant Noodles</i> (CODEX STAN 249-2006)	CCCPL <sup>1</sup>
	<i>Standard for Pickled Fruits and Vegetables</i> (CODEX STAN 260-2007)	CCPFV <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Standard for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades</i> (CODEX STAN 296-2009)	
	<i>Regional Standard for Chilli Sauce</i> (CODEX STAN 306R-2011)	CCASIA <sup>2</sup>
Ammonium lactate (INS 328)	<i>Standard for Edible Casein Products</i> (CODEX STAN 290-1995)	CCMMP <sup>1</sup>
Chlorine dioxide (INS 926)	<i>Standard for Wheat Flour</i> (CODEX STAN 152-1985)	CCCPL <sup>1</sup>
Potassium hydrogen malate (INS 351 (i))	<i>Standard for Mozzarella</i> (CODEX STAN 262-2007)	CCMMP <sup>1</sup>
	<i>Standard for Cream Cheese</i> (CODEX STAN 275-1973)	
	<i>Standard for Cottage Cheese</i> (CODEX STAN 273-1968)	

1. Active committees but only for specific items by correspondence
2. Active committee