



PROGRAMME MIXTE FAO/OMS SUR LES NORMES ALIMENTAIRES

COMITÉ DU CODEX SUR LES SYSTÈMES D'INSPECTION ET DE CERTIFICATION DES IMPORTATIONS ET DES EXPORTATIONS ALIMENTAIRES

Vingt-troisième session

QUESTIONS SOUMISES AU COMITÉ PAR LA COMMISSION DU CODEX ALIMENTARIUS ET SES ORGANES SUBSIDIAIRES

A. Questions découlant de la trente-neuvième session de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius¹

1. À sa trente-neuvième session, la Commission du Codex Alimentarius a:
 - Adopté l'avant-projet d'orientations pour le suivi des performances des systèmes nationaux de contrôle des aliments, à l'étape 5; et
 - Noté que le texte serait utile pour le suivi de la performance des systèmes nationaux de contrôle des aliments et a suggéré de réfléchir à la possibilité d'élaborer des orientations sur l'établissement d'indicateurs et de méthodes pour la mesurer.
2. Le Comité est invité à examiner cette question sous le Point 4 de l'ordre du jour.

B. Questions découlant d'autres organes subsidiaires du Codex

Vingt-cinquième session du Comité du Codex sur les graisses et les huiles (CCFO)²

3. En examinant le projet de norme pour les huiles de poisson, le Comité, à sa vingt-cinquième session, a discuté des difficultés rencontrées lors de l'utilisation exclusive des intervalles d'acides gras comme mesure pour déterminer l'authenticité des différentes huiles de poisson. Le Comité est convenu d'informer le Comité du Codex sur les systèmes d'inspection et de certification des importations et des exportations alimentaires de leur préoccupation et qu'elle sera prise en considération dans leur travail d'authenticité/intégrité des denrées alimentaires (une copie de la discussion est jointe en annexe de ce document).
4. Le Comité est invité à tenir compte de la préoccupation du CCFO sous le point 5 de l'ordre du jour.

¹ REP16/CAC, par. 92-93

² REP17/FO, par.17-28.

ANNEX

DRAFT STANDARD FOR FISH OILS (Agenda Item 4)

16. Switzerland, Chair of the Physical Working Group (PWG), introduced the report on the draft standard for fish oils (CRD2), which had met immediately prior to the current session. She recalled, that the standard only applies to all types of fish oils that are used as ingredients in food or in food supplements, but it does not apply to foods or food supplements themselves, in which these fish oils are used. She further noted the key points discussed and agreements reached by the PWG. She highlighted that:

- the fatty acid ranges for anchovy oil, krill oil and wild salmon oil in Table 1 had been adjusted based on additional information on fatty acid composition of these oils;
- the inclusion of any new named fish oil from farmed fish species should be handled in the same way as oil from farmed salmon, by introducing a separate entry in Table 1 for such oils; and the labelling should specify the source of the raw material (wild or farmed);
- the USP-NF monograph specified for astaxanthin, a minimum content of 0.01%. As limited data on the astaxanthin content of krill oil was available, it was decided that further data should be collected in order to discuss a future inclusion of a minimal astaxanthin content in krill oil as a quality criteria;
- consideration was given to the reply to the question from CCMAS on the method for determination of phospholipids, and identification of methods for triglycerides.

17. The PWG discussed the difficulties using only the fatty acid ranges of Table 1 as measure to determine compliance of a fish oil with Section 2.1 of the standard. Specifically, the positive verification of the fish species used as raw material may not always be unequivocal. It was agreed that current practice to refer to supplementary information from traceability and certification systems could assist stakeholders (industry, control authorities). Further consideration should be given to work on this matter in close coordination with the ongoing work on food authenticity/integrity in CCFICS.

Discussion

18. The Committee considered the revised standard section by section, agreed with the proposals made by the PWG, and in addition considered the following aspects:

Authenticity of fish oils

19. Recalling the discussion in the PWG as presented above (para. 17) and recognizing that the *Format for Codex Commodity Standards* in the Procedural Manual did not allow for issues related to traceability and certification to be addressed in a commodity standard, some delegations expressed support for a discussion paper that outlines the problem and identifies those elements from traceability and certification systems that would encourage good practice and assist in applying the Standard.

20. Other delegations were of the view that such a discussion paper was premature, noting that CCFICS23 would start the discussion regarding food authenticity and food integrity. These delegations further noted the concerns regarding fatty acid profiles and use of other criteria to ensure authenticity were not limited to fish oils; and that the issue of traceability should be addressed in a broader manner. CCFICS23 should be informed on the concerns of CCFO to contribute to the discussion on food authenticity and food integrity.

21. It was agreed that the development of a discussion paper was premature. However, a CL should be sent out after the adoption of the standard encouraging members to monitor the application of the standard with respect to the conformity of named fish oils with the requirements (especially the fatty acid profile), its effect on trade and to bring this information to CCFO26. Based on that data the Committee will evaluate whether a revision of the fatty acid profiles for named fish oils is necessary and whether other aspects such as additional complementary criteria are needed. The Delegations of Chile and Switzerland offered to coordinate this work and present the information for consideration by CCFO26.

Conclusion

28. The Committee agreed to:

- i. Forward the draft standard for Fish Oils (Appendix III) to CAC40 for adoption at Step 8;
- iv. Inform CCFICS of concerns of the CCFO with regard to authenticity of different oils and that consideration be given to this in their work on food authenticity/integrity;
- vi. Request the Codex Secretariat to issue a CL to request information to monitor the application of the standard with respect to the conformity of named fish oils with the requirements (especially the fatty acid profile) and its effect on trade; and
- vii. Request Chile and Switzerland to compile the information submitted in (vi) above and report to CCFO26.