

# codex alimentarius commission

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
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Agenda Item 2(a)

CX/FFV 09/15/2

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

### Fifteenth Session

Mexico City, Mexico, 19 – 23 October 2009

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### General Decisions

*Amendments to the Procedural Manual: "Format for Codex Commodity Standards" and "Relations between Commodity Committees and General Subject Committees"*<sup>1</sup>

1. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission adopted the amendments to the "Format for the Codex Commodity Standards" and to the "Relations between Commodity Committees and General Subject Committees". The amendments to these sections have been included in the 18<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Procedural Manual.
2. The Committee is invited to take into account these amendments, in particular in sections on food additives and contaminants, when considering proposed Layout for Codex Standards on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables under Agenda Item 5(a).

*Amendments Codex Standard and related Texts: Amendments to the section on contaminants of certain commodity standards*<sup>2</sup>

3. The 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee agreed that standards for products of plant origin should not make reference to veterinary drugs and agreed to recommend to the Commission to remove the reference to "veterinary drugs" in the contaminants section of Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables and the draft Standards for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades and Certain Canned Vegetables proposed for final adoption by the Commission.
4. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission endorsed this recommendation and agreed that the Secretariat would replace the provisions for contaminants (including pesticides) with the standardized provision as set out in the Procedural Manual for consistency throughout Codex standards and refer the matter to the committee concerned when specific technical issues arose that required more than editorial changes to the section on contaminants.

##### Decisions concerning the work of the Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

##### *Draft and proposed draft Standards*

##### Tomatoes and Apples

5. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission adopted the draft Standard for Tomatoes at Step 8 and the proposed draft Standard for Apples at Step 5<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 13-18

<sup>2</sup> ALINORM 09/32/3, para. 71; ALINORM 09/32/REP, para. 112

<sup>3</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 21 and 65

6. The 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee noted that the draft Standard for Apples had been under consideration since 1999 and that substantial delays had occurred prior to its adoption at Step 5 by the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission. The Committee agreed to encourage the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to finalize the standard at its next session (2009) according to the target date that it had set earlier<sup>4</sup>.

#### Bitter Cassava<sup>5</sup>

7. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission decided to return the labelling section to Step 6 for further comments, in particular on the preparation instructions, for consideration by the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (2009) and endorsement by the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Food Labelling (2010) and to hold the other sections at Step 8, with a view to the adoption of the Standard by the Commission in 2010. The Commission recalled its earlier decision that merging the standards for bitter and sweet cassava could be considered after the finalization of the current draft Standard.

#### ***Proposals for the elaboration of new standards and for the discontinuation of work***

#### Avocado, Chilli Pepper and Tree Tomato<sup>6</sup>

8. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission approved the elaboration of the Standards for Chilli Pepper and Tree Tomato and the revision of the Standard for Avocado.

9. Concerning the proposal for new work on chilli peppers, the Commission noted that duplication of work should be avoided for those provisions for which international standards already existed, such as the degree of pungency. It was noted that this particular provision was included as a reference to the work already carried out by relevant international organizations and that the standard would address those remaining issues related to product quality that were relevant to ensure fair trade practices for this produce.

#### Durian<sup>7</sup>

10. The 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Committee recommended that the Commission refer back the proposal for new work on durian to the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables with a request to reconsider the justification for new work in conformity with the *Criteria of Work Priorities Applicable to Commodities*, especially as regards potential trade barriers. The Committee also recommended that the Commission refer this question for advice to CCASIA, especially to consider whether the development of a regional standard would be appropriate.

11. At the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission, the Delegation of Thailand indicated that international trade in durian was regularly increasing and therefore the establishment of a worldwide standard should be envisaged for this product. The Delegation recognized the current workload of the Coordinating Committee for Asia and requested that the question of standardizing durian at the international level be referred back to the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for further consideration. The Commission agreed to this proposal.

12. The Committee is invited to reconsider the proposal for new work on durian under Agenda Item 6.

#### Guidelines for the Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Conformity to Quality Standards<sup>8</sup>

13. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission approved the discontinuation of work on the draft Guidelines for the Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Conformity to Quality Standards.

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<sup>4</sup> ALINORM 09/32/3, para. 33

<sup>5</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 37-39

<sup>6</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 92 and 104

<sup>7</sup> ALINORM 08/31/3A, para. 100; ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 103

<sup>8</sup> ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 109

Pomegranate<sup>9</sup>

14. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission noted that new work on pomegranate had been initially proposed at the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (CCFFV) as a worldwide standard but that due to the late submission of the proposal, the Committee had not agreed on new work on this commodity and noted that the proposal could be brought to the CCNEA though significant production of pomegranate also existed in other regions. The Commission further noted that, in the critical review, the Executive Committee had been unable to agree whether the standardization of pomegranate should be taken up at regional or international level, while agreeing that there was no impediment to start work in the CCNEA, and had referred this matter to the Commission for final decision.

15. After some discussion, recognizing the strong interest of many members to elaborate a worldwide standard for pomegranate and noting that the critical review by the Executive Committee had not indicated any deficiency in the project document, the Commission agreed to refer this proposal to the CCFFV for consideration as new work. The Commission further agreed with the following course of action, in order not to cause undue delay in the elaboration of the standard, either regional or worldwide:

- If the CCFFV assigns a high priority to this proposal, it would be possible to initiate the elaboration of the standard in an electronic Working Group pending official approval as new work by the Commission.
- If the CCFFV is of the view that the work cannot be initiated in the near future in the Committee, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission (July 2010) would assign this work as a regional standard to the CCNEA, whose next session is scheduled in January 2011.

16. The Committee is invited to consider whether it can assign a high priority to the proposal for new work on pomegranate under Agenda Item 6.

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<sup>9</sup> ALINORM 09/32/REP, paras 115-119