



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS**

**Fifth Session**

*Virtual, 20 - 29 April 2021*

**MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC)**

***Matters for information***

**42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission (CAC42)**

Adoption of standards<sup>1</sup>

1. Taking into account the Critical Review of CCEXEC77, CAC42:
  - adopted the draft standard for dried or dehydrated garlic at Step 5/8, as endorsed by the relevant general subject committees;
  - adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6 the draft standards for: dried oregano; dried or dehydrated ginger; dried basil; dried cloves; and saffron.
2. In addition, CAC42 noted the following:

Parameter on mammalian excreta

- 2.1 The concern expressed by a delegation, that the five draft standards on spices and culinary herbs included parameters such as mammalian excreta, visible mould formation and insect fragments that were of public health concern.

Proposed draft standards for dried oregano and saffron respectively

- 2.2 That for standards adopted at Step 5, all technical comments should be resubmitted at step 6, in reply to a circular letter, for consideration by CCSC5.

Codex Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025<sup>2</sup>

- 3 CAC42 adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025.

**43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission (CAC43)**

Procedural aspects and meetings of subsidiary committees<sup>3</sup>

- 4 CAC43 recommended:
  - a) that CCEXEC80<sup>4</sup> share its recommendations based on the report of the sub-committee on Codex and the Pandemic – Strategic Challenges and Opportunities with all subsidiary bodies for their information and further consideration as appropriate.
  - b) to all subsidiary bodies and Members and Observers to make full use of existing remote working mechanisms such as Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) and Circular Letters (CLs) and to plan their virtual committee meetings in such a manner as to optimize the possibility to complete their agendas.

<sup>1</sup> REP19 CAC, para 14; 85-92

<sup>2</sup> REP19 CAC, para 122

<sup>3</sup> REP20/CAC, para 20 (i-ii), 31(ii) &32

<sup>4</sup> REP21/EXEC1, para 35-36

5 CCSCH is requested to **note the above decisions** by the Commission (under paragraphs 1 to 4)

## MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

### A: Matters for information

#### 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC77)<sup>5</sup>

6 CCEXEC77 welcomed the ongoing work on developing and/or updating a template for group standards, which eventually will accelerate the work of CCSCH.

7 CCEXEC77 recommended that CAC42 adopt the proposed Draft Standard for dried or dehydrated garlic at Step 5/8 on the understanding that it will only be published after the endorsement of the three outstanding labelling provisions by CCFL. It was clarified that methods are not an integral part of a standard and therefore the proposed standard could be adopted and published despite the lack of CCMAS endorsement of provisions for testing.

#### 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission<sup>6</sup> (CCEXEC78)

##### Follow-up to Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Use of References in Codex Texts

8 CCEXEC78 emphasized that while there may on occasion be merit in including references to standards of another standard setting organization, these should be kept to a minimum since they become an integral part of a Codex text and require life-long monitoring.

#### 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling<sup>7</sup> (CCFL45)

##### Draft guidance for the labelling of non-retail containers

9 CCFL45 noted that there had been a lot of progress on the work and therefore agreed to: forward the proposed draft standard to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5; and to inform the relevant Commodity Committees on the progress of the work.

#### 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives<sup>8</sup> (CCFA51)

10 CCFA51 agreed:

- to amend the text for the food-additive provisions in the SCH Standards as follows: “*Anticaking agents listed in Table 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives (CXS 192-1995) are acceptable for use in powdered form of the foods conforming to this standard.*”
- to endorse the food-additive provisions in the proposed draft standards for dried or dehydrated garlic, dried oregano, dried leaves - dried basil, dried floral parts - dried cloves, and saffron.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods<sup>9</sup> (CCCF13)

11 CCCF13 agreed to inform all commodity committees that in the absence of MLs in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed, GSCTFF, documents such as codes of practice could be referenced in the sections of contaminants or hygiene or other appropriate sections.

#### 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission<sup>10</sup> (CCEXEC80)

12 CCEXEC80 recognized that CAC43 had agreed on the possibility of holding virtual meetings in 2021 and endorsed the proposals from the sub-committee on Codex and the pandemic to operationalize this decision, noting that this did not at present require any change to formal Codex procedures.

### Conclusion

13 CCSCH is requested to **note** the above matters as discussed by the different Codex Subsidiary Bodies

<sup>5</sup> REP19/EXEC2 Paras 12-13

<sup>6</sup> REP20/EXEC1, para 64

<sup>7</sup> REP19/FL Para 6, 19-23

<sup>8</sup> REP19/FA Para 30

<sup>9</sup> REP19/CF Para 9

<sup>10</sup> REP21/EXEC1, para 35-36

**B: Matters for action****51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives<sup>11</sup> (CCFA51)**

14 CCFA51 agreed not to endorse the proposed draft standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs – dried or dehydrated ginger, noting that it was unclear if the two substances (i.e. calcium oxide and sulphur dioxide) were food additives or processing aids and request corresponding clarification from CCSC.

15 The Committee **is invited to consider** the request from CCFA51 under agenda item 4.1.

**45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling<sup>12</sup> (CCFL45)**Revision of provisions for date marking

16 CCFL45:

- noted the continued use of the term “date of minimum durability” throughout several Codex texts which was inconsistent with the revised section on date marking in the *General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (GSLPF)* (CXS 1-1985) and therefore alignment of these texts with the GSLPF was necessary.
- agreed to inform commodity committees to ensure alignment of terminology with the newly revised GSLPF and noted that the Secretariat would also undertake a search for the texts where such alignment was needed and could make proposals for amendments to relevant Codex texts for approval by CAC.

Endorsement of Labelling provisions

17 CCFL45 agreed to endorse all the labelling provisions in the six (6) proposed draft standards ( i.e. dried or dehydrated garlic; dried oregano; for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs – dried or dehydrated ginger; dried basil; dried floral parts – dried cloves; and saffron) except for sections 8.3 and 8.3.1 (“Country of Origin/Country of Harvest”) and 8.5 (Inspection mark (optional), which were referred to CCSC for further consideration.

18 The following concerns were also noted:

Section 8.3 and 8.3.1 “Country of Origin/Country of Harvest”

- The phrase “Country of Origin/Country of Harvest” was not clear whether both the country of origin and country of harvest should be declared or only one was required. It was further noted that GSLPF provided for mandatory declaration of the country of origin if its omission would mislead or deceive the consumer. The GSLPF also sets clear criteria on what should be considered as the country of origin, which could be different from the country of harvest;
- it was important for CCSC to clarify whether the declaration of the country of harvest was intended to be mandatory if the country of origin and the country of harvest differed; or if the country of harvest could be an additional optional requirement in this case.

Section 8.5 – Inspection mark (optional)

- CCFL45 also agreed to request more information on the intention of this mark.

19 The Committee **is invited to consider** the above recommendations from CCFL45.

**40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling<sup>13</sup> (CCMAS40)**Methods of analysis in standards for dried or dehydrated garlic, dried oregano, dried root, rhizomes and bulbs – dried or dehydrated ginger, dried basil, dried floral parts – dried cloves, and saffron

20 CCMAS40:

- did not endorse the methods of analysis submitted by CCSC, and noted that several methods were submitted for endorsement as Type I methods, even though the methods were not identical.
- agreed on the selections of methods of analysis proposed by the PWG as possible examples for consideration by CCSC. These recommendations were similar to those previously endorsed for other standards developed by CCSC.

<sup>11</sup> REP19/FA Para 30

<sup>12</sup> REP19/FL Para 6, 19-23

<sup>13</sup> REP19/MAS para 12-14

21 CCMAS40 agreed that CCSCCH should note:

- The provisions such as total ash and acid insoluble ash, and volatile oils (plus other chemical characteristic provisions) were listed as “on dry basis” in the standard(s) and therefore this must be captured in the provision in CXS 234 and requires a calculation from a determination of moisture prior to ashing or volatile oil determinations. These steps must be captured in CXS 234.
- It was important to establish and utilize consistent provisions and terminology when possible. For example: either ‘mammalian excreta” or “excreta mammalian” should be selected. It was noted that mammalian excreta was used in previous CCSCCH tables and endorsed by CCMAS. Similarly, “extraneous matter” and “extraneous vegetable matter” seems to be used interchangeably and requires clarification.
- In the draft standard(s) the specification for mammalian excreta is established on a w/w basis (mg/kg), while in the methods it referred to units of particle/w (particle/10g) for AOAC 993.27.
- References to methods, including formatting and hyperlinks need to be consistent to ensure that the correct methods are being referenced.

22 CCMAS40 encouraged

- delegations to CCMAS to liaise with their counterparts to CCSCCH on methods of analysis,
- India as the lead country on spices and culinary herbs in both Codex and ISO to better coordinate work on methods of analysis for these products, and that equally
- the Codex Secretariat should ensure that guidance is given to CCSCCH on how to present methods of analysis for endorsement taking into account the guidance provided in the Procedural Manual.

23 The Committee **is invited to consider** the above recommendations from CCMAS40.