

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 3

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

39th Session, FAO Headquarters
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COMMENTS ON DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION FOR ADOPTION

(Comments submitted by 17 June 2016)

Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
Comité sur les fruits et légumes frais
Comité sobre Frutas y Hortalizas Frescas

Standard for Aubergines (Proposed Draft) (para. 51, Appendix III)

Comments of Thailand

Thailand has a concern on the Section 4.1 Quality Tolerances of this standard as in the current draft it allows 1% tolerance for decay, soft rot and/or internal breakdown in the “Extra” class. In our opinion, the quality of aubergines in the “Extra” class shall be the finest among other classes hence handled with the highest care possible, in order to prevent any damage to the produce.

With all due respect, Thailand would like to propose the Commission to consider adoption of this draft standard at Step 5 to allow more time for CCFFV, at its next section, to re-consider this issue before adoption.

Committee on Fish and Fish Products
Comité sur les poissons et les produits de la pêche
Comité sobre Pescado y Productos Pesqueros

Amendments to Food Additive Provisions in Standards for Fish and Fishery Products (para. 56, Appendix VI).

Comments of European Union

Standards for canned tuna and bonito (Codex STAN 70-1981) and for canned crab meat (Codex STAN 90-1981): Disodium diphosphate (INS 450(i)) and phosphoric acid (INS 338)

The European Union (EU) appreciates the clarification of the Codex Secretariat that the maximum level for disodium diphosphate and phosphoric acid was 10 g/kg and not 10 mg/kg as erroneously displayed in the two Standards published. Therefore, the EU can accept the correction as regards the maximum use level together with the editorial changes which were agreed at CCFFP34.

Taking into account that the default level is 10 g/kg and not 10 mg/kg the EU considers that it is appropriate to be more precise when converting the maximum use level from P₂O₅ to P and suggests the ML of 4 400 mg/kg expressed as phosphorus.

The provisions for disodium diphosphate and phosphoric acid would then read as follows:

Standard for Canned Tuna and Bonito CODEX STAN 70-1981 (GSFA FC 09.4)

450(i)	Disodium diphosphate	4 400 mg/kg as phosphorus (includes natural phosphate)
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Standard for Canned Crab Meat CODEX STAN 90-1981 (GSFA FC 09.4)

338	Phosphoric acid	4 400 mg/kg as phosphorus, singly or in combination (includes natural phosphate)
450(i)	Disodium diphosphate	

Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses
Comité du Codex sur la nutrition et les aliments diététiques ou de régime
Comité del Codex sobre Nutrición y Alimentos para Regímenes Especiales

Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985) (Proposed Draft) (para. 52a, Appendix II, Part I).

Comments of Malaysia

Malaysia does not support the adoption of the proposed new and revised NRVs-R for Vitamin E at step 5/8.

Malaysia recalls that at the 37th CCNFSDU in 2015, there were divergent views and lack of consensus whether to identify all forms of Vitamin E isomers or only α -tocopherols as the only compound that exhibited Vitamin E activity in addition to other important activities. The decision of the committee was to return the discussion on the conversion factor for Vitamin E to step 3 for comments. (para no. 52(b), Appendix II, Part III, 37th CCNFSDU).

Malaysia is strongly of the opinion that the first part of the task should be to adopt the conversion factor for Vitamin E before proceeding to adopt the NRV-R for Vitamin E.

Malaysia is of the view that it is of extreme importance for Codex decisions to proceed in logical sequential steps. This is to avoid re-visiting the adopted NRVs that may not be in accordance to the conversion factors currently being finalised. Malaysia, therefore, urges the Commission to return the proposed new and revised NRVs-R for Vitamin E of 9 mg to step 3 to allow for the discussion on the level for NRVs-R for Vitamin E to be in parallel with the discussion on the conversion factor which will only be discussed at the next Session of the CCNFSDU in December 2016.

Committee on Contaminants in Foods
Comité sur les contaminants dans les aliments
Comité sobre Contaminantes en los Alimentos

Maximum level for inorganic arsenic in husked rice (Draft) (para. 45, Appendix II).

Comments of Norway

Norway reiterates the reservation introduced at the CCCF10 meeting in April. Unfortunately, we can not support the proposed level of 0,35 mg/kg inorganic arsenic in husked rice as we are of the opinion that it is too high. It will not contribute significantly to the reduction of the intake of inorganic arsenic. Furthermore, we do not find the proposed level for husked rice coherent with the one established for polished rice which may lead to problems in international trade.

Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods
Comité sur les résidus de médicaments vétérinaires dans les aliments
Comité sobre residuos de medicamentos veterinarios en los alimentos

Draft MRLs for Bovine Somatotropin (ALINORM 95/31, Appendix II).

Comments of Kenya

The 38th Session of the Commission agreed to request JECFA to re-evaluate rbST and to continue holding the draft MRLs for rbST at Step 8, pending JECFA re-evaluation on risk assessment and antimicrobial resistance residues in human. In Kenya the rbST is prohibited due to public health concern and trade issues in the region