

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

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PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION TO THE STANDARD FOR OLIVE OILS AND OLIVE POMACE (CODEX STAN 33-1981)

(Comments of Thailand and USA)

Thailand

We would like to seek clarification on the term of "free acidity" in Section 3 Essential Composition and Quality Factors. Acidity of refined vegetable oil in the Standard for Named Vegetables Oils (CXS 210-1999) is expressed as the acid value (AV) or free fatty acid (FFA), we consider that the term of "free acidity" in the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981) may cause confusion. Therefore, we are of the view that if the term "free acidity" referred to acid value or free fatty acid, it should be changed to consistent with Standard of Named Vegetables Oils (Codex Stan 210-1999).

USA

GENERAL COMMENTS

The United States supports the efforts to amend the *Codex Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils* (CXS 33-1981) to safeguard the integrity of olive oils and to ensure fair practices in trade. However, the United States notes that all changes to the CXS 33-1981 must reflect variation in olive oils due to climatic, geographic, and varietal differences and must accommodate authentic oils from all Codex member countries.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

The United States supports certain proposed changes contained in the electronic Working Group (EWG) report CX/FO 19/26/4 rev1, including proposed changes to certain names and definitions, fatty acid composition ranges, wax content, stigmastadiene content and K270. However, the United States does not support proposed changes to CX/FO 19/26/4 rev1, on the following issues:

- Desmethylsterol composition (% total sterols):
 - The United States does not support adopting the International Olive Council (IOC) decision trees for Delta 7-Stigmastenol content at this time. Codex standards must accommodate authentic oils from all member countries. As indicated in the past, variation in desmethylsterol composition may occur due to climatic, geographic and varietal differences and, therefore, could discriminate against authentic oils.
- Fatty acid ethyl composition:
 - The United States does not support the inclusion of fatty acid ethyl esters (EE) in the standard at this time. We recommend that a thorough review of data for EE levels in olive oils from all Codex member countries be completed, including New World producers, to determine the usefulness of this parameter to assess quality, but also address the effect of climatic, geographic and varietal differences. The United States also notes that 1,2 Diacylglycerols (1,2 DAG) and Pyropheophytin (PPP) are other tests used to evaluate the quality and authenticity of olive oils. Therefore, 1,2 DAG and PPP should be discussed and evaluated along with EE for possible inclusion in CXS 33-1981 at a later date.