

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2.3

CRD02

Original language only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Eighty-fourth Session

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

10 – 14 July 2023

CRITICAL REVIEW - PART III

Appendix 4: Proposal for an amendment of the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005)

Prepared by Brazil

Supported by Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The data that motivated the request to amend the minimum standard of soluble solids for reconstituted grape juice and reconstituted purée were first published in CRD 7 of the 22nd Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean. This document is available for all Codex Members, and it is highly recommended that its content should be considered by the membership. The current minimum of soluble solids established for those products (16 °Brix) excludes approximately 45% of the juice produced from *Vitis labruscas* cultivated in the main Brazilian producer region.

In this sense, the proposed amendment of the standard will incorporate data from regions producing grape juice in different edaphoclimatic conditions, which complies with *Codex* principles to establish standards reflecting the worldwide reality.

According to the reports of the 24th, 25th, 26th, and 28th of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme *Codex Alimentarius* Commission sessions, the Task Force noted that for certain fruit juices (including grape), data were missing from some of the main producing countries.

By that time, Brazil did not have reference data to share, and, regardless of the size of our production, *Codex Alimentarius* should establish standards that cover the reality of all member countries, in an inclusive way, especially due to the fair international trade, addressing the realities of all Members, including developing countries.

As informed before, it is important to highlight that this proposal does not create distinctions for labeling and/or that could cause mislead to consumers or market transactions difficulties. It is not intend to start attesting subspecies or varieties in the grape juice trade.

This subject is in line with the Procedural Manual of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission, Section I, Basic texts and definitions, regarding the "Revision of Codex Standards", item 5:

"The *Codex Alimentarius* Commission and its subsidiary bodies are committed to revision as necessary of *Codex* standards and related texts to ensure that they are consistent with and reflect current scientific knowledge and other relevant information. When required, a standard or related text shall be revised or removed in accordance with the Procedures for the Elaboration of *Codex* Standards and Related Texts. Each member of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission is responsible for identifying, and presenting to the appropriate committee, any new scientific and other relevant information which may warrant revision of any existing *Codex* standards or related texts".

Proceeding with this amendment, which is in accordance with the core values of *Codex Alimentarius*, will allow inclusiveness to reflect the grape production in some countries. It is worth mentioning the alignment with Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, which states that the establishment and revision of international food standards should address current and emerging issues considering the needs of Members.

With all of the above mentioned, Brazil strongly recommends the amendment of the standard CXS 247-2005 considering the proposal submitted.