

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Forty-eighth Session

Xi'an, China, 14-18 March 2016

PROPOSED DRAFT SPECIFICATIONS FOR IDENTITY AND PURITY OF FOOD ADDITIVES ARISING FROM THE 80th JECFA MEETING

Comments at Step 3 of Brazil, Chile, European Union and Ghana

BRAZIL

Brazil supports reviewing the specifications designated as "Full" for the food additives listed in Annex 1 part A of CX/FA 16/48/4 and the recommendation of their adoption by the Commission as Codex Specifications.

Brazil also supports the revocation of the Codex specifications for aluminium silicate (INS 559) and calcium aluminium silicate (INS 556).

CHILE

Chile agrees to the revocation of additives INS 556 and 559, as is proposed disposal in domestic regulation. In relation to complete specifications, Chile has no observations.

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to submit the following comments:

Recommendation to review the specifications designated as "Full" for the food additives - Part a of Annex 1

The EUMS notice that most of the proposed specifications contain references to secondary food additives, namely Annatto extracts (solvent-extracted bixin) (INS 160b(i)) and (solvent-extracted norbixin) (INS 160b(ii)), Calcium silicate (INS 552) and Magnesium stearate (INS 470(iii)).

At the 45th Session of the CCFA the delegation of the European Union expressed its reservation on the references to food additives used in food additives in specifications. In the delegation's view food additive specifications should be related to the substances themselves and not to the preparations/formulations. The EUMS maintain its reservation on this matter.

In relation to the proposed specifications for Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)-polyethylene glycol (PEG) graft co-polymer (N) (INS 1209) the EUMS would like to kindly ask JECFA why and how the maximum levels for the impurities ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol are proposed to be set at 400mg/kg (singly or in combination). The EUMS would like to inform that PVA-PEG graft co-polymer has been authorised in the EU and based on analytical data on the levels of ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol provided by the applicant it was demonstrated that those impurities are present at levels of not more than 50 mg/kg of the final product.

Recommendation to consider revoking the specifications for aluminium silicate (INS 559) and calcium aluminium silicate (INS 556) - part b of Annex 1

The EUMS support the revocation of the specifications for aluminium silicate (INS 559) and calcium aluminium silicate (INS 556). The EUMS ask for clarification on the follow-up as regards the adopted provisions for those additives in the GSFA.

The EUMS would like to inform that these substances were withdrawn from the EU list of food additives which can be used in food.

GHANA**Specific Comments:**

1. Ghana recommends the adoption of the food additives as listed in part (a) of Annex 1 as Codex Specifications:
2. Ghana recommends the revocation of aluminum silicate (INS 559) and calcium aluminum silicate (INS 556) listed in part (b) of Annex 1.

Rationale: Based on the extensive work of JECFA, Ghana agrees to the adoption of food additives listed as 'Full' in Annex 1 part (a) and the revocation of food additives listed in Annex 1 part (b) due to the fact that JECFA did not obtain adequate data from Codex member countries.