

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 13

CX/FAC 05/37/17-Add. 1

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEx COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Thirty-seventh Session

The Hague, the Netherlands, 25 – 29 April 2005

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE IDENTITY AND PURITY OF FOOD ADDITIVES ARISING FROM THE 63rd JECFA MEETING

Comments

The following comments have been received from: United States of America

USA:

This responds to CX/FAC 05/37/17 (March 2005) which requests comments on the specifications for the identity and purity of food additives arising from the 63rd Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (JECFA) meeting (FAO Food and Nutrition Paper (FNP) 52 – Add. 12). The United States of America appreciates the opportunity to provide the following comments for consideration at the forthcoming 37th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC).

The United States offers the following comments with respect to the proposed revised specifications for titanium dioxide in FNP 52 – Add. 12.

1. Definition

The “Definition” contains a specific description of the manufacturing process. This description is for the sulfate process. However, the United States is aware that food grade titanium dioxide is also manufactured by another process, the chloride process. Titanium dioxide can be produced by the chloride process to meet or exceed all of the other specifications for titanium dioxide recommended by JECFA.

The color additive regulation in the United States for titanium dioxide (21 CFR 73.575) does not specify a manufacturing process. Therefore, either the sulfate or chloride process may be used to manufacture food grade titanium dioxide in the United States. We also note that the Food Chemicals Codex monograph for titanium dioxide does not specify a manufacturing process.

The United States recommends that the “Definition” be revised to include descriptions of both the sulfate and chloride processes.

2. Description

The proposed revised JECFA specifications for titanium dioxide also include a “Description” of “amorphous white powder.” The United States is aware that titanium dioxide occurs in two forms: anatase and rutile. Both of these forms may result from the sulfate process of manufacture, whereas the chloride process produces primarily the rutile form. The color of titanium dioxide may vary based on its form: the anatase forms are white powders, whereas the rutile forms may be white, slightly off-white, or slightly colored. Therefore, the United States recommends that the “Description” of “amorphous white powder” be changed to “white to slightly colored powder” to encompass the color range for both forms.

Summary

Therefore, the United States recommends that CCFAC return the specifications for titanium dioxide published in FNP 52 – Add. 12 to JECFA for revision of:

- The “Definition” to include a description of both the sulfate and chloride processes; and
- The “Description” to “white to slightly colored powder” in order to encompass the color range for the additive.