



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS
3rd Session

Chennai, India, 6 -10 February 2017

**MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

A. 39TH SESSIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC39)

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Standards and Related Texts adopted by the Commission¹

1. CAC39 adopted the following at Step 5:
 - Draft standard for Cumin, noting that the physical and chemical requirements for cracked and ground cumin (i.e. the aroma; classification; extraneous matter, etc.) should be part of the standard as well as the reference to test method ISO 939 should be changed to ISO 938;
 - Draft standard for dried Thyme, noting the comments on the name of the product and the methods of analysis.
2. These matters will be **considered** under agenda items 4 and 5.

Amendments to the Procedural Manual²

3. CAC39 agreed to adopt the amendment proposed by CCMAS and endorsed by CCGP to the section on methods of analysis and sampling of the Format for Codex Commodity Standards (Section II: Elaboration of Codex Commodity Standards). The revised section requires that commodity standards includes the following wording: *"For checking the compliance with this standard, the methods of analysis and sampling contained in the Recommended Methods of analysis and sampling (CODEX STAN 234-1999) relevant to the provisions in this standards, shall be used."*
4. The amendment would not imply the automatic removal of methods of analysis and sampling currently contained in Codex standards. The removal of methods of analysis and sampling from commodity standards would be done as the review and updating of CODEX STAN 234-1999 progress and inconsistencies and other pending issues are resolved.
5. The Committee **is invited to note** the above decisions.

B. OTHER CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

37th SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING (CCMAS37)³

Methods of analysis for provisions in the draft Standards for Cumin and Dried Thyme

6. CCMAS37 endorsed all the methods for analysis for total ash, acid-insoluble ash, volatile oils, extraneous matter and foreign matter as Type I; while the methods for Insect damage (in cumin and dried thyme) and mould damage (in case of dried thyme) as Type IV. The typing for the method for moisture is yet to be determined. (See Annex I)
7. CCMAS37 also made some recommendations (See Annex).

¹ REP15/CAC paras 80 – 85, Appendix III

² REP16/CAC, Appendix II, REP16/MAS Appendix II

³ REP16/MAS, paras 26 -28, section A of part 2 of Appendix II

10TH SESSION OF CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS (CCCF10)⁴

8. CCCF10 considered the request from the CCSCCH on whether existing maximum levels for contaminants for leafy vegetables could apply to spices and culinary herbs or whether specific maximum levels should be developed.

9. CCCF10 agreed to inform CCSCCH that in its view the MLs or GLs established in the GSCTFF for leafy vegetables are not applicable to spices and culinary herbs. Countries wishing to establish MLs for contaminants in spices and culinary herbs can submit their proposals to CCCF for consideration (See Part B to Annex II).

42ND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING (CCFL42)⁵

10. CCFL42 endorsed the labelling provisions in the draft standards for Cumin and Dried Thyme;

11. CCFL42 proposed to delete the word “dried” from section 8.2.1 in the standard for dried Thyme to ensure consistency with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985), which requires the name of the food to be supplemented by words or phrases on the true nature or physical condition of the food only when it is necessary to avoid.

12. The Committee **is invited to note the above information and reply where appropriate**

MATTERS FOR ACTION**47TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE (CCFH47)⁶**

13. When considering the proposed draft Annex on Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs to the Code of hygienic practice for low-moisture foods CCFH47 agreed to request CCSCCH to clarify whether or not dried aromatic herbs encompassed dried culinary herbs, noting that sections on hygiene in standards being developed by CCSCCH for culinary herbs would reference the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods* (CAC/RCP 75-2015) and, in particular, its annex on spices and dried aromatic herbs.

14. The Committee **is invited to consider** this request.

48TH Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA48)⁷

15. CCFA48 endorsed the food additive provisions in the draft standard for dried thyme, as proposed by CCSCCH2.

16. CCFA48 agreed to request CCSCCH to clarify the reason:

- for not including in the food additive section of the Standard, a general reference to the GSFA (i.e. for all anticaking agents listed in Table 3 of the GSFA) as required in the Procedural Manual (Format for Codex Commodity Standards); and
- for limiting the use of food additives to only three (3) anticaking agents.

17. The Committee **is invited to consider** this request.

⁴ REP 16/CF, para 10

⁵ REP16/FL, para 15

⁶ REP16/FH para 38(c)

⁷ REP16/FA para 35

ANNEX**STANDARD FOR CUMIN – METHOD OF ANALYSIS**

Commodity	Provision	Method	Principle	Type
Cumin	Moisture	ISO 760:1978 AOAC 2001.12	Titration	To be determined
Cumin	Total ash	ISO 928:1997	Gravimetry	I
Cumin	Acid-insoluble ash	ISO 930:1997	Gravimetry	I
Cumin	Volatile oils	ISO 6571:2008	Distillation / Volumetric	I
Cumin	Extraneous material	ISO 927:2009	Visual examination / Gravimetry	I
Cumin	Foreign matter	ISO 927:2009	Visual examination / Gravimetry	I
Cumin	Insect damage	Method V-8 Spices, Condiments, Flavours and Crude Drugs (Macroanalytical Procedure Manual, FDA Technical Bulletin Number 5)	Visual examination	IV

STANDARD FOR DRIED THYME - METHODS OF ANALYSIS

Commodity	Provision	Method	Principle	Type
Dried Thyme	Moisture	ISO 760:1978 AOAC 2001.12	Titration	To be determined
Dried Thyme	Total ash	ISO 928:1997	Gravimetry	I
Dried Thyme	Acid-insoluble ash	ISO 930:1997	Gravimetry	I
Dried Thyme	Volatile oils	ISO 6571:2008	Distillation / Volumetric	I
Dried Thyme	Extraneous material	ISO 927:2009	Visual examination / Gravimetry	I
Dried Thyme	Foreign matter	ISO 927:2009	Visual examination / Gravimetry	I
Dried Thyme	Insect damage	Method V-8 Spices, Condiments, Flavors and Crude Drugs (Macroanalytical Procedure	Visual examination	IV
Dried Thyme	Mould damage	Method V-8 Spices, Condiments, Flavors and Crude Drugs (Macroanalytical Procedure Manual	Visual examination	IV