

comisión del codex alimentarius

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ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES
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OFICINA CONJUNTA: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 ROMA Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Tema 4 del programa

**CX/MMP 10/9/4
agosto de 2009**

PROGRAMA CONJUNTO FAO/OMS SOBRE NORMAS ALIMENTARIAS COMITÉ DEL CODEX SOBRE LA LECHE Y LOS PRODUCTOS LÁCTEOS

Novena reunión

Auckland, Nueva Zelanda, 1-5 de febrero de 2010

INFORME DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO ESPECIAL BASADO EN LA PRESENCIA FÍSICA SOBRE QUESO FUNDIDO

1. Durante la 8ª reunión del CCMMP se convino en establecer un grupo de trabajo presencial, presidido por Francia y Nueva Zelanda, para examinar el anteproyecto de norma para el queso fundido.
2. El Comité acordó que el grupo de trabajo examinaría la norma con miras a simplificarla, que tomaría en cuenta las deliberaciones de la 8ª reunión y las observaciones recibidas por escrito y que el anteproyecto revisado de norma incluiría al menos disposiciones para abordar las siguientes cuestiones:
 - contenido de queso en el queso fundido;
 - aceptabilidad de usar gelatina, almidones y estabilizadores en la elaboración del queso fundido, por ej. haciendo referencia a la legislación nacional;
 - clara diferenciación entre el queso fundido y los preparados a base de queso fundido, por ej. mediante disposiciones de etiquetado.
3. A fin de facilitar la labor, Australia ofreció compilar información, incluyendo temas sobre producción, comercio, legislación nacional y prácticas relativas a las cuestiones deliberadas.
4. Se enviaron cinco documentos en diciembre pasado a todos los delegados inscriptos. A saber: la lista de participantes; la presentación de Australia referente a las respuestas al cuestionario; la contribución técnica de la FIL sobre el uso de estabilizadores y ciertos ingredientes estabilizadores utilizados en los productos a base de queso fundido; una versión del proyecto revisado de norma de acuerdo a las deliberaciones de la 8ª reunión del CCMMP y un documento de trabajo sobre el anteproyecto de norma para el queso fundido (Documento N° 5).
5. El Grupo de trabajo se reunió en Bruselas del 20 al 22 de enero de 2009 en el Centro de conferencias de la Comunidad Europea que puso a disposición las salas de reunión y un servicio de interpretación en español, francés e inglés.
6. El Grupo de trabajo convino en usar el documento N° 5 como documento de trabajo y abordó cada una de las cinco cuestiones contenciosas del texto indicadas con el color gris. Las delegaciones tuvieron la oportunidad de presentar sus puntos de vista sobre el documento antes de deliberar las posibles soluciones.
7. El Grupo de trabajo debatió el tema de los ingredientes permitidos y logró llegar a un acuerdo sobre el uso de almidones, sujeto a una solución satisfactoria con respecto al uso de estabilizadores. Pareció haber una preponderancia de opiniones a favor de excluir la gelatina.

8. Posteriormente a una discusión inicial inconclusa sobre la composición, el Grupo de trabajo intercambió opiniones sobre el uso de aditivos alimentarios. Durante la discusión sobre el uso de estabilizadores, se tomó en cuenta el trabajo de la FIL y las respuestas al cuestionario del Codex. Aunque una gran mayoría de las delegaciones consideraron posible llegar a un acuerdo tentativo sobre el uso de estabilizadores, otras expresaron total desacuerdo hasta tanto no se resolvieran las cuestiones referentes a la composición. Después del debate, los copresidentes del Grupo de trabajo consideraron que no se llegaría a ningún acuerdo con respecto al uso de estabilizadores hasta que no hubiera consenso sobre la composición y el contenido de queso. Por lo tanto, se convino en debatir nuevamente el tema referente a la composición.
9. El Grupo de trabajo dedicó un tiempo considerable al tema de la composición y al contenido de queso. Las delegaciones presentaron varias propuestas con miras a encontrar una solución inclusiva y coherente con el mandato del Grupo de trabajo destinado a simplificar y adelantar las disposiciones del proyecto de norma. Se hicieron algunos adelantos a fin de redactar un texto y se permitió que los copresidentes elaboraran y presentaran un proyecto de tabla de composición. Un gran número de delegaciones apoyó dicha postura. No obstante, algunas delegaciones insistieron en solucionar las cuestiones planteadas en el texto a fin de reflejar más claramente la situación en sus países, aunque no hubo consenso en ese sentido.
10. Este tema se debatió ampliamente y lamentablemente, el Grupo de trabajo no pudo formular un texto que satisficiera las necesidades de todas las delegaciones y, al mismo tiempo, fuera coherente con el mandato de simplificar y adelantar el documento. En ese sentido, los copresidentes concluyeron con pesar que de momento, no era posible llegar a un acuerdo sobre este tema y que antes de concluir la reunión tampoco sería posible resolver de común acuerdo otras cuestiones afines sobre etiquetado, estabilizadores y almidones.
11. Por lo tanto, los copresidentes informaron al Grupo de trabajo que, según su parecer, no sería posible presentar un anteproyecto revisado de norma en la próxima reunión del CCMMP. Las delegaciones integrantes del Grupo de trabajo no pusieron reparos. Al finalizar la reunión se acordó que los copresidentes redactarían un documento que reflejara el resultado de las deliberaciones del Grupo de trabajo y que sería distribuido a las delegaciones a título de información y transmitido al CCMMP para su consideración.
12. Los copresidentes consideran que la elaboración de la norma presenta una dificultad fundamental ya que la misma debe abarcar una gran variedad de productos comercializados como queso fundido y, al mismo tiempo, proporcionar flexibilidad para la innovación. Debido a esta dificultad y a la insistencia inquebrantable de algunas delegaciones de que la norma se atenga fielmente a las especificaciones de sus productos nacionales en lugar de un enfoque más global, parecería que no es posible encontrar una solución para resolver la cuestión.
13. Los copresidentes expresan su agradecimiento a ese gran número de delegaciones que procuraron trabajar en aras de una conclusión positiva durante la reunión del Grupo de trabajo.

Anexos (sólo en lengua original):

- Anexo 1: Lista de participantes
- Anexo 2: Documento de trabajo sobre el anteproyecto de norma para queso fundido (documento N° 5)
- Anexo 3: Informe técnico de la FIL “The use of stabilisers and certain stabilising ingredients in Processed Cheese Products”
- Anexo 4: Presentación de Australia relativa a los resultados del estudio sobre queso fundido “CCMMP Questionnaire on Processed Cheese”

PHYSICAL WORKING GROUP ON PROCESSED CHEESE

Brussels, 20 – 22 January 2009

List of Participants

CO-CHAIR : Mr. Paul ASH
 Deputy Head of Mission
 New Zealand Embassy to Belgium and Mission to the
 European Union
 Square de Meeus 1
 B-1000 Brussels
 Belgium
 Ph: +32 2 550 12 11
 Fax: +32 2 513 48 56
 Email: paul.ash@mfat.govt.nz

CO-CHAIR: Ms Roseline LECOURT
 Chargée de mission
 Ministère de l'économie, de l'industrie et de l'emploi
 DGCCRF - Teledoc 251
 59, boulevard Vincent Auriol
 75703 PARIS Cedex 13
 France
 Ph: +33 1 44 97 34 70
 Fax: +33 1 44 97 30 37
 Email: roseline.lecourt@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

AUSTRALIA

Mr. Matthew KOVAL
 Minister Counsellor (Agriculture)
 Embassy of Australia, Australian Mission to the European
 Union
 Ph: + 32 2 286 0513
 Fax: + 32 2 230 6802
 Email : matthew.koval@dfat.gov.au

Mr Donald SNYDER
 -DPAC -Canada
 Dairy Processors Association of Canada
 76 Margaret Ave N.,
 Waterloo, Ontario
 Canada N2J3P9
 Ph: +1 519-885-6968
 Ph : Also +1 519-885-6968
 Email: dksnyder@kw.igs.net

AUSTRIA

Mr. Karl SCHOBER
 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water
 Management
 Stubenring 1,
 1012 Vienna,
 Austria
 Ph: +431 71100 2844
 Fax: +431 71100 2972
 Email: karl.schober@lebensministerium.at

CZECH REPUBLIC

Mr. Vallav BARTA
 Dairy Expert, Head of Department
 Milcom Servis A.S.
 Hostivarska 538/56
 102 00 Praha 10
 Ceska Republika
 Ph: +420 274 016 130, +420 603 858387
 Fax: +420 274 016 199
 Email: barta@milcom.cz

CANADA

Ms Gail Daniels
 Chief, Dairy Program Canadian Food Inspection Agency
 159 Cleopatra Dr
 Ottawa On K1a 0y9
 Ph +613-221-7000
 Fax +613-221-7294
 Email: gdaniels@inspection.gc.ca

Mrs. Jarmila STIPKOVA
 Dairy Expert
 Milcom Servis A.S.
 Hostivarska 538/56
 102 00 Praha 10
 Ceska Republika
 Ph: +420 274 016 131, +420 603 858386
 Fax: +420 274 016 199
 Email: Stipkova@Milcom.Cz

FRANCE

Ms Karine SIMBELIE
 Inspector, Head of the French delegation
 Ministère de l'économie, de l'industrie et de l'emploi
 DGCCRF - Teledoc 251
 59, boulevard Vincent Auriol
 75703 Paris 13
 France
 Ph: +33 1 44 97 28 40
 Fax: +33 1 44 97 30 48
 Email: Karine.Simbelie@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

Ms Lucile GAUCHET
 Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche
 3, rue Barbet de Jouy
 75349 Paris 07
 Ph : +33 1 49 55 46 08
 Fax : +33 1 49 55 49 25
 Email : lucile.gauchet@agriculture.gouv.fr

Mrs Dominique BUREL
 CNIEL
 Head of Service – Secretary General Fil France/ALF
 42, rue de Châteaudun
 75314 Paris Cedex 09
 France
 Ph: +33 1 49 70 71 15
 Email : filfrance-alf@cniel.com

Mr Jean-François COUTREL
 Responsable réglementation produits
 Groupe Bel
 16, boulevard Maiesherbes
 75008 Paris
 France
 Ph: 33 1 40 07 73 11
 Fax: 33 1 40 07 72 98
 Email: jfcoutrel@groupe-bel.com

Mr. Jean-Claude GILLIS
 Chef du service scientifique, technique et réglementaire
 ATLA
 42, rue de Châteaudun
 75009 Paris
 France
 33 1 49 79 72 68
 33 1 42 80 63 65
 Email: trs@atla.asso.fr

Dr Eric GRANDE
 Regulatory Affairs Director
 Lactalis
 10-20, Rue Adolphe Beck
 53000 Laval
 Ph: +33 6 16 99 27 96
 Email: eric.grande@lactalis.fr

Ms Jennifer HUET
 CNIEL
 Project Manager
 42, rue de Châteaudun
 75314 Paris Cedex 09
 France
 Ph: +33 1 49 70 71 08
 Email : jhuet@cniel.com

Mrs Huguette MEYER-CARON
 Directeur Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutrition
 Head of Food Safety and Nutrition Service
 Fromageries Bel
 16, Boulevard Maiesherbes
 75008 Paris
 France
 Ph: +33 1 40 07 73 82
 Fax: +33 1 40 07 72 98
 Email: hmeyercaron@groupe-bel.com

GERMANY

Mrs. Marlies Reimann
 Regierungsdirektorin
 Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und
 Verbraucherschutz
 Rochusstraße 1
 D-53123 Bonn
 Ph: +49 228 99 529 4349
 Fax: +49 228 99 529 55 4247
 Email: 423@bmelv.bund.de,
marlies.reimann@bmelv.bund.de

Mr. Konrad HAUBER
 Rechtsanwalt
 Milchindustrie-Verband e.V.
 Jägerstraße 51
 10117 Berlin
 Germany
 Ph: +49 (0) 30 4030 445 22
 Fax: +49 (0) 30 4030 445 55
 Email: konrad.hauber@milchindustrie.de

IRELAND

Mr John M. DOODY
 Senior Inspector
 Department of Agriculture and Food
 Milk and Milk Products
 Agriculture House, Kildare Street
 Dublin 2
 Ireland
 Ph: + 353 1 607 2605
 Fax: + 353 1 607 2848
 Email: john.doody@agriculture.gov.ie

ITALY

Mr. Ciro IMPAGNATIELLO
 Italian Codex Committee
 Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali
 Via XX Settembre, 20
 00187 Roma,
 Italy
 Ph: + 39 06 46656046
 Fax: +39 06 4880273
 Email : c.impagnatiello@politicheagricole.gov.it

Mrs Brunella LO TURCO
 Secretary General Italian Codex Committee
 Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali
 Via XX Settembre, 20
 00187 Roma
 Italy
 Ph : +39 06 46656041
 Fax : +39 06 4880273
 Email : saco8@politicheagricole.gov.it

JAPAN

Ms Kiyoko KOTSUBO
Deputy Director
Milk and Dairy Products Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8950,
Japan
Ph: +81-3-6744-2127
Fax: +81-3-3506-9578
Email: Kiyoko_kotsubo@nm.maff.go.jp

Mr Kaoru KOIDE
Japanese National Committee of IDF
Nyugyo Kaikan,
1-14-19 Kudankita, Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 102-0073
Japan
Ph: +81 3 3264 3731
Fax: +81 3 3264 3732
Email: idfjapan@rapid.ocn.ne.jp

Mr. Shiro KAWABATA
Japanese National Committee of IDF
Nyugo Kaikan
1-14-19 Kudankita, Chiyoda-Ku,
Tokyo 102-0073
Japan
Ph: +81 3 3264 3731
Fax: +81 3 3264 3732
Email: Idfjapan@rapid.ocn.ne.jp

LATVIA

Mrs Olga ORLOVA
Permanent Representative
Email : olga.orlova@mfa.gov.lv

LIBYA

Dr. Mohamed NAHAISI
Professor
Libyan National Centre for Standardization and Metrology
P.O.Box 84033
Tripoli- Libya
Ph: +218 926452587
Fax: +218 4630885
Email: nahaisimh@yahoo.com

NETHERLANDS

Mr Gert STIEKEMA
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
PO Box 20401
2500 EK Den Haag
The Netherlands
Ph ; +31-703784235
Fax : +31-70-3786123
Email : o.t.j.stiekema@minlnv.nl

Mr Rob OOST
Ing
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
PO box 755
2700 AT Zoetermeer
The Netherlands
Ph: +31 79-3681516
Fax: +31 79-3681951
Email: r.h.oost@pz.agro.nl

NEW ZEALAND

Mr Phil FAWCET
Senior Programme Manager (International Standards)
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
South Tower, Telecom House,
86 Jervois Quay
PO Box 2835 - Wellington
New Zealand
Ph: +64 4 894 2656
Fax: +64 4 894 2675
Email: phil.fawcet@nzfsa.govt.nz

Mr Keith JOHNSTON
Principal Research Technologist
Fonterra Palmerston North
Private Bag 11029,
Dairy Farm Rd
Palmerston North,
New Zealand
Ph: +64 6 350 4640
Fax: +64 6 350 6330
Email: keith.johnston@fonterra.com

PORTUGAL

Mr Luis SALINO
Adviser- Portuguese Codex Contact Point
Gabinete De Planeamento E Políticas
Rua Padre António Vieira, 1 – 1099-073 Lisboa
Portugal
Ph: + 351 213819305
Fax: + 351 21866650
Email: lsalino@gpp.pt

SPAIN

Ms Teresa Calvo Sanz
Jefa de Área
Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs
Paseo Infanta Isabel nº 1. 28071 Madrid.
Spain
Ph: +34 91347 8463
Fax: +34 913475728
Email: tcavosa@mapya.es

SWEDEN

Mrs. Karin BÄCKSTRÖM
Chief Government Inspector
National Food Administration
Box 622
SE- 751 26 Uppsala
Sweden
Ph: +46-18-175664
Fax: +46-18-175310
Email: karb@slv.se

SWITZERLAND

Ms Christina Blumer
Scientific employee
Federal Office for Public Health
Schwarzenburgstr. 165
P.O. Box 3003
Berne
Switzerland
Ph: +41 31 322 95 67
Fax: +41 31 322 95 74
Email: christina.blumer@bag.admin.ch

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr Duane R. SPOMER
 Food Defense Advisor
 Agricultural Marketing Service
 Compliance and Analysis
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW,
 Stop 0203
 Washington, DC 20250-0203
 Ph: +1 (202) 720-1861
 Fax: +1 (202) 205-5772
 Email: Duane.Spomer@usda.gov

Mr John F. SHEEHAN
 Director
 Division of Dairy and Egg Safety
 Office of Plant and Dairy Foods and Beverages
 Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition - HFS-306
 Food and Drug Administration
 Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building
 5100 Paint Branch Parkway
 College Park, MD 20740
 Ph: +1 (301) 436-1488
 Fax: +1 (301) 436-2632
 Email: John.Sheehan@fda.hhs.gov

Ms Susan M. SAUSVILLE
 Chief, Dairy Standardization
 Agricultural Marketing Service
 Dairy Programs
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 0230
 Washington, DC 20250-0230
 Tel: +1 (202) 720-9382
 Fax: +1 (202) 720-2643
 Email : Susan.Sausville@usda.gov

Mr Russell J. BISHOP
 Director
 Center for Dairy Research
 University of Wisconsin – Madison
 1605 Lindon Drive
 Babcock Hall
 Madison, WI 53706
 Ph: +1 (608) 265-3696
 Fax: +1 (608) 262-1578
 Email: jrbishop@cdr.wisc.edu

Ms Ann Mileur BOECKMAN
 Senior Counsel, Food Law
 Kraft Foods
 Three Lakes Drive
 Northfield, IL 60093
 Ph: +1 (847) 646-2862
 Fax: +1 (847) 646-4431
 Email: Ann.Boeckman@Kraft.com

Ms Cary FRYE
 Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
 International Dairy Foods Association
 1250 H Street, NW, Suite 900
 Washington, DC 20050
 Ph: +1 (202) 737-4332
 Fax: +1 (202) 331-7820
 Email: cfrye@idfa.org

Ms Deborah VAN DYK
 Director of Legal Affairs
 Schreiber Food, Inc.
 425 Pine Street
 P.O. Box 19010
 Green Bay, WI 54307
 Ph: +1 (920) 437-7601
 Fax: +1 (920) 436-2700
 Email: deborah.van-dyk@sfcicorp.com

Mr Jim Moran
 Research Principal
 Kraft Foods R&D
 Global Cheese & Dairy Technology
 801 Waukegan Rd.
 Glenview, IL 60025
 Ph :+1 847 646-3859
 Fax: +1 847 646-3864
 Email: jmoran@Kraft.com

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION

Mr Michael HICKEY
 Advisor
 International Dairy Federation (IDF)
 Irish National Committee of IDF
 Derryreigh - Creggane, Charleville
 Co. Cork
 Ireland
 Ph: +353 63 89392
 Fax: +353 63 89392
 Email : mfhickey@oceanfree.net

Ms Aurélie DUBOIS
 Standards Officer
 International Dairy Federation (IDF)
 Diamant Building
 80, Boulevard Auguste Reyers
 1030 Brussels
 Belgium
 Ph: +322 706 8645
 Fax: +322 733 0413
 Email: ADubois@fil-idf.org

CODEX SECRETARIAT

Ms Annamaria BRUNO
 Food Standards Officer
 Codex Secretariat – Joint FAO - WHO Food Standards
 Programme
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
 00153 Rome
 Italy
 Ph: +39 06 570 56254
 Fax: +39 570 54593
 Email: Annamaria.bruno@fao.org

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Mr Jerome LEPEINTRE
 Acting Head of Unit
 European Commission
 Rue Froissart 101 – 2/62
 1049 Brussels
 Belgium
 Ph: +32 2 299 37 01
 Fax: +32 2 299 85 66
 Email: Jerome.lepeintre@ec.europa.eu

Mrs Bernadette KLINK KHACHAN
EC Codex Contact Point
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101 – 2/50
1049 Brussels
Belgium
Ph: +32 2 295 79 08
Fax: +32 2 299 85 66
Email: Bernadette.klink-khachan@ec.europa.eu

Mr José PAIXAO
Administrator
DG Agriculture
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium
Ph : +32 2 296 14 63
Fax: +32 2 295 33 10
Email: Jose.Paixao@ec.europa.eu

Mr César CORTES
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels
Belgium
Ph : +32 2 281 61 14
Fax : +32 2 281 61 98
Email : cesar.cortes@consilium.europa.com

Mr Kari TÖLLIKKÖ
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels
Belgium
Ph : +32 2 281 78 41
Fax : +32 2 281 61 98
Email : kari.tollikko@consilium.europa.com

Mrs Raluca IVANESCU
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels
Belgium
Ph : +32 2 281 31 58
Fax : +32 2 281 61 98
Email : raluca.ivanescu@consilium.europa.com

Working Paper on the Proposed Draft Standard for Processed Cheese (doc. 5)**1. Scope**

This Standard applies to products that are named “Process(ed) Cheese” (including named variety(ies) processed cheeses) intended for direct consumption or further processing, in conformity with the description in Section 2 of this Standard¹.

2. Description

Processed cheeses are the semi-solid and spreadable² to solid and sliceable milk products obtained

- (i) from cheese (CODEX STAN A-6-1978), with or without the addition of other raw materials and permitted ingredients,
- (ii) by melting and emulsifying the mixture,
- (iii) with the aid of heat and emulsifying (or melting) salts in a well-mixed medium³,

to produce a homogeneous, smooth and stable oil-in-water emulsion.

Named variety(ies) processed cheeses are processed cheeses, as defined above, characterized by the use in their manufacture of one or more recognized varieties of cheese, and a reference to these in their designation⁴.

3. Essential Composition and Quality Factors**3.1 Raw Materials**

- a. Cheese*;
- b. Milk products rich in fat (e.g. butter*, butteroil*, ghee*, cream*, cream powder*);
- c. Milk and milk products other than the above (e.g. milk concentrates, buttermilk, milk powders*, milk proteins, whey powders*, lactose*).

*) For further details, see relevant Codex standards.

The use of these raw materials shall be in conformance with Section 3.3.1.

3.2 Permitted Ingredients

- Sodium chloride, and/or salt substitutes (eg: potassium chloride);
- Water;
- Safe and suitable processing aids;

- [Gelatine and starches: these substances can be used in the same function as stabilizers, provided they are added only in amounts functionally necessary as governed by Good Manufacturing Practice taking into account any use of the stabilizers listed in section 4];

Issues : “Some delegations were in favour of the use of gelatine and starches in processed cheese because in their view they were required to manufacture processed cheese. Some delegations were in favour of the use of gelatine and starches provided that they were used within defined limits. Other delegations proposed their exclusion from the list of permitted ingredients because in their view they were not necessary in these products”. (cf. Alinorm 08/31/11 par.61)

“The Committee discussed the use of gelatine and starches in processed cheese. Several delegations opposed their inclusion in the standard because in their view binding agents were not necessary in the manufacture of

¹ This standard does not cover other plain products that are named with descriptive designations that include the words “processed” and/or “cheese”, such as” Process(ed) Cheese Preparation”, “Process(ed) Cheese Product”, “Process(ed) Cheese Spread”, “Process(ed) Cheese Food”, “Process(ed) Cheese Speciality” and “Process(ed) Cheese Dessert”. (***This footnote is to be removed prior to adoption of the standard at step 8.***)

² In this context, reference to “spreadable” means that the product has a texture that is suitable for spreading by the consumer, e.g. it readily spreads on bread when taken directly from chilled storage conditions.

³ Foot note explaining that emulsifying salts do not function directly as emulsifiers.

⁴ For instance, “Process(ed) Cheddar Cheese”, “Cheddar Process(ed) Cheese”, “Process(ed) Cheddar”.

processed cheese *per se*. Other delegations were in favour of their retention in the standard. In this regard it was variously mentioned that: gelatine and starches were used for the same function as stabilizers that needed to be applied to the manufacture of stringy and sliceable processed cheese; and that in their view, they were necessary in the manufacture especially of low fat processed cheese” (*Alinorm 08/31/11 par.66*)

“The revised proposed draft standard should at least include provisions for addressing the following issues: ...

- The acceptability of use of gelatine, starches and stabilizers in the manufacture of processed cheese, for instance by reference to national legislation; ...” (*Alinorm 08/31/11 par.72*)

Objectives : Address the use of gelatine and starch in the manufacture of processed cheese, taking into account the use of stabilizers (section 4); in relation to a distinction between processed cheese, which is covered by this standard, and processed cheese preparation, which is not covered by this standard.

Proposed solutions :

Option 1 : no gelatine and starches authorized in PC covered by this standard

Comments:

There would be no restriction on the use of gelatine and starch in processed cheese preparations and products not covered by this standard, such as those listed in footnote 1.

There would be a clear difference between PC and processed cheese preparations.

Option 2 : gelatine and starches could be used in all types of PC covered by this standard, with a defined maximum level

Comments:

There would be no restriction on the use of gelatine and starch in processed cheese preparations and products not covered by this standard, such as those listed in footnote 1.

The maximum level can be specified in a way that excludes unacceptable use of gelatine and starch.

Option 3 (the current proposal): “gelatine and starches can be used in the same function as stabilizers, provided they are added only in amounts functionally necessary as governed by Good Manufacturing Practice taking into account any use of the stabilizers listed in section 4”

Comments:

Gelatine and starch would be allowed to be used in PC covered by this standard but the limit allowed would be governed by GMP rather than defined.

Good manufacturing practice in the use of food additives means⁵:

a) the quantity of the additive added to food shall be limited to the lowest possible level necessary to accomplish its desired effect;

b) the quantity of the additive that becomes a component of food as a result of its use in the manufacturing, processing or packaging of a food and which is not intended to accomplish any physical, or other technical effect in the food itself, is reduced to the extent reasonably possible; and,

c) the additive is of appropriate food grade quality and is prepared and handled in the same way as a food ingredient.

Similar provisions are included in the standards for unripened cheese, cottage cheese, cream cheese, fermented milks, cream and dairy fat spreads.

- Vinegar;

- [cultures of harmless bacteria and enzymes]

- Where allowed in accordance with the Codex General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients for Food, maximum and minimum levels for vitamins A, D and other nutrients, where appropriate, should be laid down by national legislation in accordance with the needs of individual countries including, where appropriate, the prohibition of the use of particular nutrients.

⁵ Codex General Standard for Food Additives. Codex Stan 192-1995, Rev.9-2008. Preamble, section 3.3.

[3.3 Composition

The specifications for relative amounts of the three categories of raw materials specified below are to be calculated on product weight basis (*Alinorm 08/31/11 par.55, General support of the CCMMP*)

3.3.1 Processed cheeses

Issue : “The Committee agreed that the presentation of the entire section needed to be improved and simplified. Some delegations noted that the two categories “products with relatively low moisture on a fat free basis” and “products with relatively high moisture on a fat free basis” were open to interpretation and might lead to disparity with respect to cheese content for products with the same moisture levels. These delegations suggested to either define the terms “relatively low moisture” and “relatively high moisture” or find other terms for these categories or ways to express the different compositions of these products. Other delegations suggested not to categorize these products on moisture on fat-free basis (MFFB) and to simplify the section by only categorizing the products by specifying the required dry matter (DM) contents for different ranges of fat in dry matter (FDM) content.

“The Committee discussed the FDM figures in section 3.3.2 “End product composition”. Some delegations were of the opinion that 75% maximum content (m/m) was too high and needed to be lowered to 65%. In this regard it was noted that the A-8 standards for the group with the highest fat content indicated 65% as minimum value and that there was a need to distinguish among different types of products (high fat and low fat content).

“In concluding the discussion on this section, the Committee agreed that the structure and presentation of the section needed to be considerably simplified and its content reconsidered and further discussed so as to reconcile the different views. Therefore, the Committee agreed to put the entire Section in square brackets.” (*Alinorm 08/31/11 par.63 - 65*)

Objectives : To follow CCMMP’s recommendations, simplifying this section, by proposing different options ranked from the simplest to the most complex, and using answers to the Codex questionnaire on processed cheese and IDF technological input

Proposed solutions :

Option 1 : an inclusive standard (Ex : standard A6 « Cheese »,...)

with only an end product composition criteria, and without differentiating types of processed cheese, and no raw materials criteria.

Comments:

Standard A6 is a General Standard that has a comprehensive and general description of cheese. It does not include compositional specifications, but instead the labelling section provides descriptive designations (e.g. Ripened, Mould ripened, Unripened, Hard, Soft, etc), and declaration of fat content (High fat, Full fat, etc).

A similar approach could be used for PC covered by this standard. Labelling provisions could be used to inform consumers of the nature of the processed cheese, for instance by using descriptive terms associated with specific FDM, DM, and cheese content.

Option 2 : an inclusive standard (Ex : standard A6 « Cheese »,...), but with 2 types of products differentiated on the FDM and DM criteria

such as in the current proposal, simplified by using the same ranges of Fat in Dry Matter for both types of processed cheese to be consistent

Comments:

Similar to Option 1 but FDM and DM provisions would be covered as part of the Composition section and more specifically stated.

A possible format for the table of composition could be:

FDM content	Minimum DM content	
	Type I	Type II
Equal to or above 50% MG/ES	50%	40%
Equal to 40% but less than 50%	42%	35%
Equal to 30% but less than 40%	34%	30%

Less than 30%	29%	25%
<p>Labelling provisions can be used to inform consumers of the nature of the processed cheese.</p> <p>Option 3 : an inclusive standard (Ex : standard A6 « Cheese »,...), with 2 categories of products differentiated on both the FDM and DM (on the basis of option 2) and the cheese content criteria, simplified by merging points 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 of the current draft standard</p> <p><i>Comment:</i></p> <p>Similar to Option 1 but FDM, DM and cheese content provisions would be covered as part of the Composition section and more specifically stated.</p>		

<p><u>Milk fat in dry matter (FDM):</u></p> <p>Minimum content (m/m): None</p> <p>Maximum content (m/m): 75%</p> <p>Compositional modifications beyond the minima and maxima specified above for FDM and DM are not considered to be in compliance with section 4.3.3 of the Codex General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms (CODEX STAN 206-1999).</p>

3.3.2 Named variety processed cheeses

<p>Notwithstanding 3.3.1, the cheese variety(ies) referenced in the designation of named variety(ies) processed cheeses in accordance with section 7.1.3 shall constitute at least [60 / 75% on a product weight basis and 55% on a product weight basis for mould ripened cheese]</p> <p>Of the three categories of raw materials specified in Section 3.1, category (c) materials shall not exceed [x % on product weight basis]</p> <p><u>Issue:</u> “The Committee had a general discussion [...] on the figure [15%] on a product weight basis for raw materials specified in section 3.1, category c. [...] With regard to raw materials specified in section 3.1, category c, several delegations noted that it was not possible to comment on this figure until the issue of the basis for determination of cheese content was decided (<i>Alinorm 08/31/11 par.56</i>). As a conclusion, the Committee agreed to use as a basis for its discussion the following figures : [...]For raw materials specified in Section 3.1 category c: [x% on a product weight basis]. (<i>Alinorm 08/31/11 par.57</i>)”</p>

4. Food Additives

Only those additives classes indicated in the table below may be used for the product categories specified⁶.

Additive functional class:	Processed cheese		
	Type I [> x% DM]	Type I [< x% DM]	Type II
	<i>Cf. point 3.3.1 “Processed cheese”, option 2 or 3.</i>		
Colours	X	X	X
Emulsifying (or Melting) Salts	X	X	X
Acidity Regulators	X	X	X
Preservatives	X	X	X
Emulsifiers	X	X	X

⁶ It should be understood that individual additives are listed indicating their principal functional class in products covered by this standard, but it is recognized that some of these additives have more than one function and such additives may be used for those functions provided that class is permitted in this standard and the additive concerned is recognized as having that function in the GSFA and only within the limits specified hereafter.

Stabilizers	-	[X]	[X]	
Thickeners	-	-	-	
Anticaking Agents*	X	X	X	

*) For the surface treatment of sliced, cut, shredded and grated products only.

X = The use of additives belonging to the class is technologically justified.

- = The use of additives belonging to the class is not technologically justified.

Issues: See section 3.2.

Objectives: Address the acceptability of use of [...] stabilizers in the manufacture of processed cheese, for instance by reference to national legislation (*Alinorm 08/31/11 par.72*); taking into account the use of gelatine and starch (section 3.2); in relation with the distinction between processed cheese and processed cheese preparations;

Proposal: IDF has been asked to provide a description of the technical functions of stabilizers. See also countries' answers to the Codex questionnaire.

Comment:

Technological justification relevant to stabilizers means⁷:

“The use of food additives is justified only when such use has an advantage, does not present an appreciable health risk to consumers, does not mislead the consumer, and serves one or more of the technological functions set out by Codex and the needs set out from (a) through (d) below, and only where these objectives cannot be achieved by other means that are economically and technologically practicable: (...)

c) to enhance the keeping quality or stability of a food or to improve its organoleptic properties, provided that this does not change the nature, substance or quality of the food so as to deceive the consumer; (...)”

Note – points (a), (b) and (d) omitted as not relevant to the use of stabilizers.

INS No.	Name of Additive	Maximum level	
Colours			
101i,ii	Riboflavins	300 mg/kg	
140	Chlorophyll	[15] mg/kg	Singly or in combination
141i, ii	Chlorophylls, Copper Complexes		
160a (i)	Beta-Carotene (Synthetic)	25 mg/kg	
160a (ii)	Carotenes (Vegetable); Natural Extracts	600 mg/kg	
160b (i)	Annatto Extracts – Bixin Based	60 mg/kg	Calculated as bixin
160b (ii)	Annatto Extracts – Norbixin Based	25 mg/kg	Calculated as bixin
160e	beta-Apo-8'-Carotenal	35 mg/kg	
160f	beta-Apo-8'-Carotenoic Acid, methyl and ethyl esters	35 mg/kg	
Emulsifying (or Melting) Salts			
325	Sodium Lactate	GMP	
326	Potassium Lactate	GMP	
327	Calcium Lactate	GMP	
331i-iii	Sodium Dihydrogen Citrate; [Disodium Citrate ⁸]; Trisodium Citrate	GMP	
332i,ii	Potassium citrates	GMP	
333	Calcium Citrates	GMP	
334	Tartaric Acid (L(+)-)	34,900 mg/kg	Singly or in combination
335i,ii	Monosodium Tartrate; Disodium Tartrate		
336i,ii	Monopotassium Tartrate; Dipotassium Tartrate		
337	Potassium Sodium Tartrate		
339i-iii	Sodium Dihydrogen Phosphate; Disodium Hydrogen Phosphate; Trisodium Phosphate	20,000 mg/kg	Singly or in combination

⁷ Codex General Standard for Food Additives. Codex Stan 192-1995, Rev.9-2008. Preamble, section 3.2.

⁸ Subject to JECFA approval for processed cheese.

INS No.	Name of Additive	Maximum level	
340i-iii	Potassium Dihydrogen Phosphate; Dipotassium Hydrogen Phosphate; Tripotassium Phosphate		expressed as P ₂ O ₅ ⁹
341i-iii	Calcium Dihydrogen Phosphate; Calcium Hydrogen Phosphate; Tricalcium Phosphate		
343i,ii	Monomagnesium Phosphate; Dimagnesium Orthophosphate		
450i-vii	Disodium Diphosphate; Trisodium Diphosphate; Tetrasodium Diphosphate; [Dipotassium Diphosphate ¹⁰ ;] Tetrapotassium Diphosphate; Dicalcium Diphosphate; Calcium Dihydrogen Diphosphate		
451i,ii	Pentasodium Triphosphate; Pentapotassium Triphosphate		
452i,ii,iv,v	Sodium Polyphosphates, Glassy; Potassium Polyphosphate; Calcium Polyphosphate; Ammonium Polyphosphate		
Acidity Regulators			
170i	Calcium Carbonate	GMP	
260	Acetic Acid, Glacial	GMP	
261	Potassium Acetate	GMP	
262i	Sodium Acetate	GMP	
263	Calcium Acetate	GMP	
270	Lactic Acid	GMP	
296	Malic Acid (DL-)	GMP	
[297]	[Fumaric Acid]	[GMP]	
330	Citric Acid GMP	GMP	
338	Orthophosphoric Acid	5,000 mg/kg	expressed as P ₂ O ₅
575	Glucono delta-Lactone	GMP	
Preservatives			
200	Sorbic Acid	2,000 mg/kg	Singly or in combination expressed as sorbic acid
201	Sodium Sorbate		
202	Potassium Sorbate		
203	Calcium Sorbate		
280	Propionic Acid	GMP	
281	Sodium Propionate	GMP	
282	Calcium Propionate	GMP	
283	Potassium Propionate	GMP	
234	Nisin	12.5 mg/kg	
301	Sodium Ascorbate	GMP	
302	Calcium Ascorbate	GMP	
1105	Lysozyme Hydrochloride	GMP	
Emulsifiers			
322	Lecithins	GMP	
471	Mono- and Diglycerides of fatty acids	GMP	
472a	Acetic and Fatty Acid Esters of Glycerol	GMP	
472b	Lactic and Fatty Acid Esters of Glycerol	GMP	
472c	Citric and Fatty Acid Esters of Glycerol	GMP	
472e	Diacyltartaric and Fatty Acid Esters of Glycerol	10,000 mg/kg	
472f	Tartaric, Acetic and Fatty Acid Esters of Glycerol (Mixed)		
473	Sucrose Esters of Fatty Acids	10,000 mg/kg	
476	Polyglycerol Esters of Interesterified Ricinoleic Acid	5,000 mg/kg	
[Stabilizers]			
[401]	[Sodium Alginate]	[GMP]	

⁹ The GSFA expresses phosphates as P and max. 14,050 mg/kg

¹⁰ Subject to JECFA approval for processed cheese.

INS No.	Name of Additive	Maximum level	
[402]	[Potassium Alginate]	[GMP]	
[403]	[Ammonium Alginate]	[GMP]	
[404]	[Calcium Alginate]	[GMP]	
[406]	[Agar]	[GMP]	
[407]	[Carrageenan]	[GMP]	
[410]	[Carob Bean Gum]	[GMP]	
[412]	[Guar Gum]	[GMP]	
[413]	[Tragacanth Gum]	[GMP]	
[414]	[Gum Arabic]	[GMP]	
[415]	[Xanthan Gum]	[GMP]	
[418]	[Gellan Gum]	[GMP]	
[440]	[Pectins (Amidated and Non-amidated)]	[GMP]	
[461]	[Methyl Cellulose]	[GMP]	
[466]	[Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose]	[GMP]	
[1400]	[Dextrins White and yellow, Roasted Starch]	[GMP]	
[1401]	[Acid Treated Starch]	[GMP]	
[1402]	[Alkaline Treated Starch]	[GMP]	
[1403]	[Bleached Starch]	[GMP]	
[1404]	[Oxidised Starch]	[GMP]	
[1405]	[Enzyme Treated Starch]	[GMP]	
[1410]	[Monostarch Phosphate]	[GMP]	
[1412]	[Distarch Phosphate]	[GMP]	
[1413]	[Phosphated Distarch Phosphate]	[GMP]	
[1414]	[Acetylated Distarch Phosphate]	[GMP]	
[1420]	[Starch Acetate esterified with Acetic Anhydride]	[GMP]	
[1421]	[Starch Acetate esterified with Vinyl Acetate]	[GMP]	
[1422]	[Acetylated Distarch Adipate]	[GMP]	
[1440]	[Hydroxypropyl Starch]	[GMP]	
[1442]	[Hydroxypropyl Distarch Phosphate]	[GMP]	
[1450]	[Starch Sodium Octenyl Succinate]	[GMP]	
Anticaking Agents			
460i	Microcrystalline Cellulose	GMP	
460ii	Powdered Cellulose	GMP	
551	Silicon Dioxide(Amorphous)	10 g/kg	Singly or in combination expressed as SiO ₂
552	Calcium Silicate		
553i	Magnesium Silicate (Synthetic)		
553iii	Talc		
554	Sodium Aluminosilicate		
556	Calcium Aluminium Silicate		
559	Aluminium Silicate		

5. Contaminants

The milk used in the manufacture of the raw materials and of the products covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum limits for contaminants and the maximum residue limits for pesticides and veterinary drugs established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

6. Hygiene

It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate Sections of the Recommended International Code of Practice – General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969), the Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products (CAC/RCP 57-2004) and other relevant Codex texts such as Codes of Hygienic Practice and Codes of Practice. The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997).

7. Labelling

In addition to the provisions of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985) and the General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms (CODEX STAN 206-1999), the following specific provisions apply:

7.1. Name of the food

7.1.1 The name of the food shall be “Process(ed) Cheese”.

7.1.2 The designation of Processed Cheese with a relatively high moisture on fat free basis (MFFB) shall be accompanied by a qualifying term describing the true nature of the product, in a way that is accurate and not misleading to the consumer in the country of retail sale.

Issue: The Committee noted that the section needed to be revised to reflect further decisions on the categorization of processed cheese (composition section). (Alinorm 08/31/11 par.67)

Objectives: to follow the CCMMP recommendation, and to actualize this paragraph in relation with previous proposals established in the standard

Proposed solutions:

Option 1: Delete the current paragraph 7.1.2 and replace it by the following proposals:

Comments:

In order to take the different situations in the world into account, it is proposed to consider alternatives referring to national legislations and previously used in existing Codex standards such as “fermented milks” or “cream”...:

1/ Example Codex standard for “Fermented milk, par.7.1.2”: “Products in the scope of this standard shall be named “Processed cheese”. If the consumer would be misled by this name, the products shall be named as permitted by national legislation in the country of retail sale. In countries where no such legislation exists, or no other names are in common usage, the product shall be named “Processed cheese”.

2/ Example : Codex standard for “Creams”: “The name of the food shall be “Processed cheese”. The products covered by this Standard may alternatively be designated with other names specified in the national legislation of the country in which the product is manufactured and/or sold or with a name existing by common usage, provided that such designations do not create an erroneous impression in the country of retail sale regarding the character and identity of the food.”

Option 2: Revise the current paragraph 7.1.2 as follows

Comment:

The wording could be simplified by referring to Type II, for example:

“The designation of Type II Processed Cheese shall be accompanied by an appropriate qualifying term if the consumer in the country of retail sale would be misled by its omission”.

In addition, appropriate qualifiers describing the fat content may be used.

Use of nutritional claims such as reduced fat can be part of the designation and shall be in line with the Guidelines for the Use of Nutritional Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997). For the purpose of comparative nutritional claims, the minimum fat content of 40% fat in dry matter constitutes the reference.

7.1.3 Named variety(ies) processed cheeses shall be named “_____ Process(ed) Cheese” or “Process(ed) _____ Cheese”, the blank being filled with the name(s) of a cheese variety(ies), as appropriate, in accordance with sections 2 and 3.1. of this Standard. Where acceptable in the country of retail sale, the word “cheese” can be omitted.

7.1.4 The designation of a product, in which recognized cheese variety(ies) constitute(s) less than the minimum amount required for named variety(ies) processed cheese (Section 3.3.2), may place special emphasis on the presence by designating the product “Process(ed) Cheese with _____” or “Process(ed) Cheese flavoured with _____”, as appropriate, the blank being filled with the name(s) of the variety(ies), provided that the variety(ies) constitute(s) at least 2% of the ingoing raw materials on product weight basis and that the ingoing percentage(s) of the variety(ies) (m/m) at the time of manufacture is declared in the list of ingredients (on product weight basis).

Issue: Several delegations did not support the provision allowing for the use in the labelling of the name of a cheese variety of which the presence constituted at least 2% of ingoing raw materials since it could mislead consumers. These delegations suggested either to delete the provisions or to retain the provision to declare the percentage on the label. ” (Alinorm 08/31/11 par.68)

7.2 Declaration of milk fat content

The milk fat content shall be declared in a manner found acceptable in the country of sale to the final consumer, either (i) as a percentage by mass, (ii) as a percentage of fat in dry matter, or (iii) in grams per serving as quantified in the label provided that the number of servings is stated.

7.3 Declaration of cheese content

1. The ingoing percentage of cheese in the formulation (m/m) shall be declared if so required in the country of retail sale.

Proposed solution:

According to the different options proposed in section 3.3 “Composition”, different labelling solutions can be considered:

Option 1 of paragraph 3.3: labelling of cheese should be mandatory

Option 2 of paragraph 3.3: labelling of cheese content should be made if so required in the national legislation of the country of retail sale

Option 3 of paragraph 3.3 : as a minimum cheese content is set, labelling should not be mandatory

Comment:

Results of the Codex questionnaire on processed cheese should be taken into account

7.4 Declaration of milk protein content¹¹

If the consumer would be misled by the omission, the milk protein content shall be declared in a manner acceptable in the country of sale to the final consumer, either as (i) a percentage by mass, or (ii) grams per serving as quantified in the label provided the number of servings is stated.

7.5 Labelling of Non-retail Containers

Information required in Section 7 of this Standard and Sections 4.1 to 4.8 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1), and, if necessary, storage instructions, shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and the address of the manufacturer or packer shall appear on the container, and in the absence of such a container on the processed cheeses themselves. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

¹¹ The nitrogen to protein conversion factor of 6,38 should be used

8. Methods of sampling and analysis¹²

Provision	Method	Principle	Comments	Type
Milk fat in dry matter	IDF 5:2004 ISO 1735:2004	Gravimetry (Schmid-Bondzynski-Ratzlaff)	This method measures fat. When DM is measured by IDF 4:2004/ISO5534:2004 FDM may be obtained by calculation	I
Milk fat in dry matter [in processed cheese types to be specified]	IDF 124-1/3:2005 ISO 8262-1/3:2005	Gravimetry (Weibull- Berntrop)	This method measures fat. When DM is measured by IDF 4:2004/ISO5534:2004 FDM may be obtained by calculation	
Dry matter	IDF 4:2004 ISO 5534:2004	Gravimetry Drying at 102°C	Applicability of this method has not been checked for this type of product.	
Protein	IDF/RM 25: 2005 ISO/TS17837:2005	Kjeldahl Method	This method measures total protein and does not specifically measure milk protein	I

¹² This section is based on CX/MMP 06/7/13

THE USE OF STABILISERS AND CERTAIN STABILISING INGREDIENTS IN PROCESSED CHEESE PRODUCTS

Submitted by the International Dairy Federation (IDF) as technical input to the on-going deliberations of the CCMMP Working Group on Processed Cheese

INTRODUCTION

IDF has developed this document in response to a request for technical input from the joint Chairs (FR, NZ) of the Codex Working Group (WG) on Processed Cheese.

IDF would like to point out that some countries do allow the use stabilisers and ingredients with stabilising properties (gelatine and starch) in the manufacture of processed cheese whereas others do not. In some countries where the use is permitted the resulting products are designated as processed cheese whereas in other countries such products are designated as processed cheese preparations. In light of these facts and for the purpose of this document, IDF uses the term “Processed Cheese Products” as a term intended to encompass Processed Cheeses (PCs) and Processed Cheese Preparations (PCPs), yet remain neutral as regards the issue of whether such additives and/or ingredients should be used in PCs and/or PCPs. The question on whether or not to use ingredients with stabilising properties (gelatine and starch) in Processed Cheese Products is related to the composition of the product, the raw materials used and certain processing conditions.

This response has been prepared based on information received from the members of the IDF Standing Committee on Standards of Identity as well a number of sources within the public domain (publications, personal discussions etc). However IDF recognises that some information, being commercially sensitive, has not necessarily been supplied and therefore the document may not reflect all the uses of stabilizers and ingredients with stabilising properties.

Response:

Traditionally the primary stabilisation in processed cheese products is by casein and/or paracasein, which is brought into its active stabilising state by the use of emulsifying salts, which, in effect, remove the calcium from the casein and increase the pH to about 5.8 – 6.0. 60% to 80% of the total casein is then soluble; it binds water and emulsifies the free fat released in the processing of the raw material cheese in the processed cheese “cooker”.

In the case of rennet coagulated cheese, the casein is in the form of insoluble calcium phosphate paracasein. The added emulsifying salts sequester the calcium and in the presence of high pH (5.8 – 6.0), the calcium depleted paracasein is soluble to the extent of 60% – 80% of the total casein present.

In the case of acid coagulated cheese, the casein is insoluble due to the low pH and the absence of a negative charge. In the presence of emulsifying salts, the pH is buffered to 5.8 – 6.0 and the casein now becomes sodium caseinate and is soluble to a similar extent to that described for rennet coagulated cheese above (i.e. 60% – 80%)¹³.

In the case of more mature cheeses (with high levels of primary proteolysis and hence lower levels of intact casein – for example at about 65%, compared to 85% - 90% in relatively young cheese with little proteolysis), one gets similar high levels of soluble casein, but this will not give the necessary emulsification of the free fat, because it is the soluble intact casein that emulsifies the free fat efficiently and contributes to the viscosity, texture and consistency of the finished processed cheese product.

In products containing an equivalent level of soluble protein, but which has been hydrolysed to a greater degree (and hence contains less intact casein), the contribution of the soluble protein phase to viscosity, texture and consistency of the finished product, particularly in high moisture processed cheese spreads (spreadable processed cheese) will be less. In such cases the addition of stabilisers (and ingredients with stabilising effects, such as starch and gelatine) can provide an important role in imparting viscosity and consistency which facilitates filling into packaging, particularly where high throughput filling equipment is used, and also contribute to a smooth creamy texture in the final product, without altering the organoleptic properties. However, their addition is but one approach, and other means can also be considered, including selection of cheese, the type/level of milk protein/casein ingredients, “creaming” in processing by the use of rework/remelt cheese, processing conditions, etc.

Evolving processes and products

In addition to the above example, stabilisers and ingredients with stabilising properties are used in processed cheese products where certain evolving technologies are used to produce products with specific functional properties or compositional characteristics.

¹³ This description of Processed Cheese Products is a general one. It is not intended to be an all inclusive description of the many ways in which they are manufactured. The authors fully appreciate that some such products, currently on the market, may differ in composition, pH and ingredients to that described here.

Hydrocolloids, including the vegetable gums, pectins, alginates, carrageenan, agar, methyl celluloses, starch and the related chemically modified or semi-synthetic products (such as the modified starches) are the stabilisers most commonly used. Gelatine is a protein product, while most of the others are hydrophilic carbohydrates and/or cellulose derivatives or polymers of sugars (starch is such a polymer of glucose). They have a common ability to bind water to improve consistency, provide a smooth mouthfeel and form thick products with variable consistency (Berger et al, 1989).

The hydrocolloid stabilisers are used at maximum levels of between 1.5% and 2%, with the higher levels used in lower fat products. The levels of the additives that are modified starches¹⁴ tend to be used at levels up to 4%. Combinations of stabilisers tend to be used rather than individual stabilisers. One example given in the literature is of the use and levels of stabiliser(s) that could be used is a mix of Xanthan Gum and Guar Gum in a 60:40 ⇔ 40:60. Other references give a combination of carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) and Xanthan Gum, combined with a special emulsifying salt as the best stabiliser for processed cheeses based on fresh cheeses (Berger et al, 1989).

Gelatine is used to maximum levels of about 2.5% to 3%, while starches, classified in the GSLPF as ingredients, are used at levels up to 4%.

The following are some particular examples of where stabilisers and ingredients with stabilising properties are used in the manufacture of processed cheese products.

These are given by way of example and do not purport to be an exhaustive list.

1. High Temperature Processing

This process is used to produce different types of processed cheese products for consumption in different regions of the world but also modify the structure with stabilisers used to provide the necessary texture and stability (by preventing syneresis and oil release).

2. Lower pH Products

Some processed cheese products have lower pH levels to those outlined earlier (e.g. 5.2 to 5.8). Such products have increased bacteriostatic and good organoleptic properties. Products, particularly those with a pH at the lower level of this range use stabilisers (e.g. hydrocolloids and modified starches) to achieve the desired texture and stability in addition to casein and emulsifying salts.

3. Products with certain functionalities (e.g. stringiness and melting)

Stringy products:

Processed cheese products with a relatively low level of emulsifying salts (less than 1% versus 2.5% to 3%) and a relatively low pH (5.3 -5.5) giving an end product (normally in slice format, but can also be in blocks) with increased stringiness when heated on toast. Stabilisers, generally the gums, are added at a level of less than 1% to provide the required emulsification and compensate for the lower level of emulsifying salts used. Even with the normal levels of emulsifying salts, the addition of stabilisers improves the melting functionality and also the sliceability of processed cheese products in blocks when used on high throughput slicing equipment.

Good spreadability and good melting properties:

Hydrocolloid stabilisers are also used in the production of spreadable products that are smooth with a spreadable texture when used at ambient temperature and also have good melting properties when heated.

4. Lower fat products (e.g. < 40% FDM):

There is an increasing demand for lower fat properties. Stabilisers are used in the manufacture of some such products to achieve smooth texture and good mouthfeel, to assist sliceability of processed cheese in blocks, and also to contribute to food safety and keeping quality. The level of stabilizers needed in such products is higher than in those used in products with higher dry matter and fat in dry matter.

The use of food additives

The use of food additives is governed by the principle of justification as outlined in Section 3.2 of the Preamble to the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (see Appendix I).

Conformance with the GSUDT

In addition to the general principle contained in the GSFA, the use of gelatine, starch or stabilisers in processed cheese products is also governed by the principles of the Codex General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms and in particular Section 4.6.4. thereof:-

¹⁴ This refers to chemically modified starches (INS Numbers from 1400 – 1451) which are additives. Starch may also be modified by physical or enzymatic methods but such starches, together with native (unmodified) starch may be designated as “starch” under the Codex GSLPF Section 4.2.3.1.

“... the term “milk”, or the name of a milk product may be used in the description of the true nature of the product, provided that the constituents not derived from milk are not intended to take the place, in part or in whole, of any milk constituent. For these products dairy terms may be used only if the consumer would not be misled.

Reference:

Berger, W., Klostermeyer, H., Merkenich, K., and Uhlmann, G. (1989). Development of the Processed Cheese Market. Pages 11-25 in *Processed Cheese Manufacture: A JOHA Guide*. BK Ladenburg GmbH, Ladenburg.

Annex I

Section 3.2 of Preamble to GSFA

The Justification for the Use of Additives

The use of food additives is justified only when such use has an advantage, does not present an appreciable health risk to consumers, does not mislead the consumer, and serves one or more of the technological functions set out by Codex and the needs set out from (a) through (d) below, and only where these objectives cannot be achieved by other means that are economically and technologically practicable:

- (a) to preserve the nutritional quality of the food; an intentional reduction in the nutritional quality of a food would be justified in the circumstances dealt with in sub-paragraph and also in other circumstances where the food does not constitute a significant item in a normal diet;
- (b) to provide necessary ingredients or constituents for foods manufactured for groups of consumers having special dietary needs;
- (c) to enhance the keeping quality or stability of a food or to improve its organoleptic properties, provided that this does not change the nature, substance or quality of the food so as to deceive the consumer;
- (d) to provide aids in the manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, transport or storage of food, provided that the additive is not used to disguise the effects of the use of faulty raw materials or of undesirable (including unhygienic) practices or techniques during the course of any of these activities.



Australian Government

**Australian Quarantine
and Inspection Service**

CCMMP QUESTIONNAIRE ON PROCESSED CHEESE

**Presentation prepared by Slava Zeman
Leader of the Australian delegation to CCMMP**

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Introduction

- A physical Working Group, under the co-leadership of France and New Zealand, was established in February '08 to revise the proposed draft standard for processed cheese for circulation at Step 3 and further consideration at Step 4 at the 9th Session of the Committee.
- In order to facilitate the work of the Working Group, Codex members and observers would be invited to electronically submit information.
- France, New Zealand and Australia developed a questionnaire that facilitated the gathering of information.

Introduction continued

Information requested in the questionnaire included;

- Name of product (other than brand name) / product designation;
- Quantity produced
 - total quantity
 - per international trade
 - per cheese content
 - per true nature (spreadable, sliceable, stringy);
- Labelling cheese content;
- Gelatine and starches;
- Stabilisers;
- Fat and dry matter content; and
- National legislation in relation to the above 4 points.

Results

21 delegations have responded to the questionnaire

- Australia
- Czech Republic
- Ireland
- Lithuania
- Spain
- Portugal
- Austria
- France
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- Belgium
- Germany
- Japan
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom
- Canada
- Iran
- Libya
- Slovakia
- United States

Results - Question 1

Name of product /product designation (not brand name)

Product names or designations within individual country legislation is most commonly categorised on one hand as 'processed cheese' (general) and on the other hand 'processed cheese preparations' (ie Codex terminology) or other names such as processed cheese spread, processed cheese food (in Canada, Libya and USA).

Designations such as 'sliceable processed cheese', "spreadable processed cheese" or "stringy processed cheese" are generally not used (they are included within other designations or considered as not relevant).

Results - Question 2

Quantity manufactured (annually, in tonnes)

- Countries responded to this question in various ways, however, provided data are interesting if analysed country by country:
 - 19 countries provided information regarding quantity produced annually;
 - some countries provided a response as a % value of total production, others provided total tonnage. Where this was clear, tonnage were added.
- Answers to this question give an interesting information on processed cheese and processed cheese preparation production in each country.
 - Additional information is also provided regarding the different categories of processed cheese manufactured in each country.
- The diversity of provided data makes difficult the realisation of a clear synthesis of answers.

Results - Question 2.1

TOTAL PRODUCED

- *Per cheese content <25% cheese (on weight basis).*
- *Per cheese content <25 – 50% cheese content (on weight basis)*
- *Per cheese content <50 – 75% cheese (on weight basis)*
- *Per cheese content > 75% cheese (on weight basis)*

Limited number of countries responded to this question, therefore it is not possible to propose a conclusion - summary.

Results - Question 2.2

2.2.1 Quantity Produced in International Trade

- 20 countries provided information regarding quantity produced per international trade.
- Answers to this question give an interesting information on the importance of the trade of processed cheese in each country, and of processed cheese preparations when data could be provided.
- These data could be related to answers provided by each country on quantities produced annually (question 2).

Results - Question 2.2 - continued

2.2.1 Quantity Produced per cheese content

<25% cheese (on weight basis)

>25-50% cheese (on weight basis)

>50-75% cheese (on weight basis)

> 75% cheese (on weight basis)

Limited number of countries responded to these questions, a meaningful summary is not possible.

Results - Question 3

Cheese content

Does your national legislation stipulate a cheese content value? Please indicate the value and the format.

Responses indicate that in general, national legislations do not stipulate cheese content; where it is prescribed, this is limited to 'Processed cheese' (general) and, to a smaller extent, to 'Processed cheese preparation'.

Within these designations, less than half of countries (7 out of documented answers) indicated that cheese content is stipulated.

Results - Question 4

Labelling cheese content

Please indicate

- 1. whether labelling of cheese content is required in your national legislation and*
- 2. in what format it is applied, e.g. as % of the dry matter content or as a % of the final product weight.*

Responses indicate that, for the majority of countries, legislation does not specify labelling of cheese content.

However:

- Italy, Sweden and Czech Republic indicated they require labelling in the case of named variety processed cheese and
- labelling is required in Belgium, Libya and New Zealand.
- when labelling is required, the format applied varies from one country to another.

Results - Question 5

Gelatine and starches

Please indicate whether the use of gelatine or starches in each product (in all or only some types) is permitted under your national legislation.

Responses indicate that legislative permission to use gelatine and starches varies between countries and product designations.

Results - Question 6

Stabilisers

Please indicate whether the use of stabilisers in each product (in all or only some types) is permitted under your national legislation.

Responses indicate that, in general, stabilisers are allowed or not prohibited, within legislation.

Some countries specify a maximum allowable limit, e.g. Iran 3%.

Libya indicated it specifies that in some situations gums are not allowed and that stabilisers of animal origin are not permitted.

Results - Question 7

Fat and dry matter content

Please indicate whether your national legislation mandates the fat and dry matter content of each product and labelling thereof (Please note CCMP 8 did not nominate 'fat in dry matter' as a question).

Responses indicate that fat and dry matter content is mandated in the legislation of some countries.

Fat content is expressed as:

either % fat in dry matter, or

% fat in moisture wet basis (Canada) / wet weight basis (Libya).

The labelling of fat content is required by many countries but responses make little reference to dry matter content. The specific levels change depending on the designation.

Results - Question 8

National Legislation on labelling cheese content

Response is the same as question 4, ie responses indicate that, for the majority of countries, legislation does not specify labelling of cheese content.

However Italy, Sweden and Czech Republic require labelling in the case of named variety processed cheese and labelling is required in Belgium, Libya and New Zealand.

When labelling is required, the format applied varies from one country to another.

Results - Question 8 continued

National legislation on gelatine and starches

Response is the same as question 5, ie responses indicate that legislative permission to use gelatine and starches varies between countries and product designations.

Results - Question 8 continued

National legislation on stabilisers

Response is the same as question 6, ie responses indicate that, in general, stabilisers are allowed or not prohibited, within legislation.

Some countries specify a maximum allowable limit, e.g. Iran 3%.

Libya specifies that in some situations gums are not allowed and that stabilisers of animal origin are not permitted

Results - Question 8 continued

National legislation on fat and dry matter content

Response is the same as question 7, i.e. responses indicate that fat and dry matter content is mandated in the legislation of some countries.

Fat content is expressed as either % fat in dry matter, or % fat in moisture wet basis (Canada) / wet weight basis (Libya).

The labelling of fat content is required by many countries but responses make little reference to dry matter content. The specific levels change depending on the designation