

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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**Agenda Item 4.4.1**

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty-fifth Session

#### COMMENTS ON DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS SUBMITTED BY THE 22ND CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES<sup>1</sup>

#### BACKGROUND

1. This document compiles the comments on the draft standards submitted at Step 8 or Step 5/8 and the proposed draft standards submitted at Step 5 of the Procedure. The compiled comments are those received through the Codex Online Commenting Systems (OCS), (and/or via email), and in reply to the Circular Letter (s) as indicated in the respective Annex.
2. OCS is an online tool that enables Codex Contact Points to submit comments on draft texts in a standardized way, thus providing more transparency and better management of comments on different Codex texts as requested through Circular Letters. Since its launching at CAC39 (2016), the OCS has been used for different Codex Committees.

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES ON ANNEX I, II, III, IV

3. The comments received are presented in a table format, with two columns as follows:
  - **First column** – Presents the comments with the rationale.
  - **Second column** – Presents the provider of the comments (name of country or observer)

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<sup>1</sup> This document compiles comments submitted through OCS, or via email by the time this document was issued, in reply to CL 2022/40/OCS-FFV, CL 2022/41/OCS-FFV, CL 2022/42/OCS-FFV, CL 2022/43/OCS-FFV

**COMMENTS IN REPLY TO CL 2022/40/OCS-FFV - REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR ONIONS AND SHALLOTS**

*Comments of Australia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, European Union, India, Iran, Kenya, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and ICUMSA*

COMMENT	MEMBER/OBSERVER
<p>Overall, Australia supports the proposed standard and considers the standard is ready for adoption.</p> <p>However, Australia does not support any further reduction in the stated tolerance within the classes.</p>	<p><b>Australia</b></p>
<p>No se tiene oposición a su aprobación, pero se tienen observaciones de tipo editoriales para las siguientes secciones:</p> <p>5.1.1 Categoría extra Corregir 5,0% por 5%            5.1.2 Categoría I corregir 10,0% por 10% y 4,0% por 4% ,            5.1.3 Categoría II corregir 1,0 cm por 1 cm,            5.2 Tolerancia Calibre corregir 10,0% por 10%</p>	<p><b>Chile</b></p>
<p>Costa Rica considera que el texto está listo para avanzar en el trámite 5/8.</p>	<p><b>Costa Rica</b></p>
<p>Cuba agradece la oportunidad de expresar sus criterios sobre la carta circular. CL 2022/40/OCS-FFV y apoya el documento de Anteproyecto de Norma del Codex para las cebollas y los chalotes en el trámite 5/8</p>	<p><b>Cuba</b></p>
<p>En atención a la circular CL 2022/40/OCS-FFV en el trámite 5/8 sobre el Anteproyecto de norma para las cebollas y los chalotes de parte del Sub Comité de Frutas y Hortalizas Frescas del Ecuador se considera que el texto de la norma está listo para su aprobación.</p>	<p><b>Ecuador</b></p>
<p>Regarding to clause no. 3.2 Classification :</p> <p>As our previous comments ,We suggest adding Class III and the quality tolerance of it as follow:</p> <p>Twenty five per cent, by number or weight, of onions and shallots satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 5% neither in total may consist of produce affected by decay.</p> <p>In addition to, 15.0%, by weight, of bulbs may present externally visible shoot growth not exceeding 1 cm.</p> <p>regarding to clause no. 4.1            (a) Onions:            we suggest the following modification :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•20 mm where the diameter of the smallest onion is 40 mm and over but under 60 mm; and</li> <li>•30 mm where the diameter of the smallest onion is 60 mm or over.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Egypt</b></p>
<p>The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) reiterate their reservation to the provision allowing a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class.</p> <p>The EUMS recall that CAC41 confirmed that the provision for decay in “Extra” class is optional; and depending on the nature of the produce, the tolerance may not be applicable or necessary. The EUMS maintain their view that a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class is not in conformance with the requirements for “Extra” Class, which is a special status granted to products of exceptionally high quality. “Extra” Class produce require more careful production, packing, transportation as well as minimal delays in shipment and dispatch to preserve the high quality of the produce with</p>	<p><b>European Union</b></p>

consequent higher production and shipping costs; and investments in these efforts should be rewarded. The EUMS continue to apply a zero tolerance for decay in "Extra" Class.	
Yes. India supports the adoption of the text at Step 5/8 by CAC45. All the issues were discussed deeply during the Virtual Working Group meeting and the plenary meeting of CCFFV22 and were resolved except few member countries made reservation that were recorded. Considering para (4) of the statements of principle concerning the role of science in the codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account, proposed draft standard for onions and shallots should be considered for adoption at Step 5/8 by CAC45.	<b>India</b>
Iran agrees with adoption proposed draft Standard for Onions and Shallots at step 5/8	<b>Iran</b>
<p>Comments: Kenya thanks the Chair of the EWG and VWG Iran with Co-chairs India and Indonesia for the good work done. Kenya supports the adoption of the draft standard at step 5/8 with a few amendments as highlighted.</p> <p>At 3.1.1 Kenya Proposes to replace 'Sufficiently developed' with the term 'horticultural maturity'.. The final statement to read; 'Onions and shallots shall attain horticultural maturity and shall have reached...' Rationale: Sufficiently developed is not measurable.</p> <p>At 7.2.3 Comments: Kenya proposes to consider making the inspection Mark compulsory. Rationale: Inspection is a pre requisite in compliance with Food safety requirements.</p>	<b>Kenya</b>
<p>Adoption of the proposed Draft Standards for Onions and Shallots, berry fruits and fresh dates at Step 5/8 is supported.</p> <p>Rationale: The trade of onions and shallots, berry fruits and fresh dates are increasingly being traded globally and thus there is need to provide internationally accepted standard to facilitate their trade as well as assuring the safety of the population.</p>	<b>Mauritius</b>
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reviewed the document and supports the progress of the proposed draft standard for onions and shallots to the next step.	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.1 Minimum requirements : Remove semi-colon after 'following' in 9th bullet point (free of abnormal external moisture excluding condensation following; removal from cold storage) to align text with standard layout.</li> <li>• 3.2 Classification : Amend text in each second paragraph for Extra Class, Class I and Class II to 'For shallots, double, triple or more bulbs are not considered a defect'. This does not change meaning but improves sentence construction.</li> <li>• 3.2.3 Class II: Amend text by making 'ring' plural in the third paragraph / 8th bullet point to 'for onions, slight glassiness /translucence not exceeding the two outer fleshy rings'. This does not change meaning but improves sentence construction.</li> </ul>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
Formatting could be reconsidered in order to not have a section title on a preceding page but instead on the same page as the text relating to it.	<b>ICUMSA</b>

**COMMENTS IN REPLY TO CL 2022/41/OCS-FFV - REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AT STEP 5/8 ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR BERRY FRUITS**

*Comments of Australia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, European Union, India, Iran, Kenya, Saudi Arabia and United Kingdom*

<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>MEMBER / OBSERVER</b>
Australia would also like some clarification as to why strawberries are not included in this standard, noting it is included in the Berries category in the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds.	<b>Australia</b>
No se tiene oposición a su aprobación, pero si observaciones de traducción para las siguientes secciones: 7.1.1 y 7.2.2 versión español cambiar salvaje por silvestre.	<b>Chile</b>
Costa Rica considera que el texto está listo para avanzar en el trámite 5/8.	<b>Costa Rica</b>
Cuba agradece la oportunidad de expresar sus criterios a la Carta circular:CL 2022/41/OCS-FFV apoya el Proyecto de norma para las bayas en el trámite 5/8.	<b>Cuba</b>
En atención a la circular CL 2022/41/OCS-FFV en el trámite 5/8 sobre el proyecto de Norma para bayas de parte del Sub Comité de Frutas y Hortalizas Frescas del Ecuador se considera que el texto de la norma está listo para su aprobación	<b>Ecuador</b>
Egypt agrees on the draft standard for berry fruits	<b>Egypt</b>
<p>The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) reiterate their reservation to the provision allowing a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class.</p> <p>The EUMS recall that CAC41 confirmed that the provision for decay in “Extra” class is optional; and depending on the nature of the produce, the tolerance may not be applicable or necessary. The EUMS maintain their view that a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class is not in conformance with the requirements for “Extra” Class, which is a special status granted to products of exceptionally high quality. “Extra” Class produce require more careful production, packing, transportation as well as minimal delays in shipment and dispatch to preserve the high quality of the produce with consequent higher production and shipping costs; and investments in these efforts should be rewarded. The EUMS continue to apply a zero tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class of berry fruits as provided in the UNECE standard.</p>	<b>European Union</b>
<p>Yes. India supports the adoption of the text at Step 5/8 by CAC45.</p> <p>All the issues were discussed deeply during the Virtual Working Group meeting and the plenary meeting of CCFFV22 and were resolved except few member countries made reservation that were recorded. Considering para (4) of the statements of principle concerning the role of science in the codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account, proposed draft standard for berry fruits should be considered for adoption at Step 5/8 by CAC45.</p>	<b>India</b>
Iran agrees with adoption proposed draft Standard for Berry fruits at step 5/8	<b>Iran</b>
Comment: Kenya Commends Mexico as Chair of the VWG and EWG together with its co-chair Argentina for this good work. Kenya supports the adoption of this draft standard at step 5/8.	<b>Kenya</b>

<p>The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reviewed the document and supports the progress of the proposed draft standard for berry fruits to the next step.</p>	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>
<p>3.2.1 Extra Class: Amend text in 1st bullet point to 'bilberries and blueberries should be practically free of twins or doubles (agglomerated) attached by a stem and must be practically covered with bloom or wax, according to the varietal characteristics'. This does not change meaning but improves sentence construction.</p>	<b>United Kingdom</b>

## Appendix III

**COMMENTS IN REPLY TO CL 2022/42/OCS-FFV - REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AT STEP 5/8 ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR FRESH DATES***Comments of Chile, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran, Kenya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and ICUMSA*

<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>MEMBER / OBSERVER</b>
No se tiene oposición a su aprobación ni observaciones.	<b>Chile</b>
Cuba agradece la oportunidad de responder la carta circular CL 2022/42/OCS-FFV y apoya el Proyecto de Norma para los Dátiles frescos en trámite 5/8 como se expresa en esta carta circular.	<b>Cuba</b>
Regarding to clause no. 5.1 QUALITY TOLERANCES we propose to replace marketing with classification	<b>Egypt</b>
Yes. India supports the adoption of the text at Step 5/8 by CAC45. All the issues were discussed deeply during the Virtual Working Group meeting and the plenary meeting of CCFFV22 and were resolved except few member countries made reservation that were recorded. Considering para (4) of the statements of principle concerning the role of science in the codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account, proposed draft standard for fresh dates should be considered for adoption at Step 5/8 by CAC45.	<b>India</b>
Iran agrees with adoption proposed draft Standard for Fresh Dates at step 5/8	<b>Iran</b>
Comment: Kenya Commends India as Chair of both the VWG and EWG and its co-chair Saudi Arabia for this good work. Kenya supports the adoption of this draft standard at step 5/8.	<b>Kenya</b>
3.1.1 Exigences minimum de maturité : "Les dattes fraîches doivent avoir une teneur en eau conforme aux critères propres à la variété, au stade de développement au moment de la récolte et à la région de production. La teneur en eau doit être comprise dans une fourchette allant de 30% à 85%". Commentaire du Maroc, ce seuil est critique et n'est pas du tout en faveur de nos variétés à haute valeur marchande. On recommande de revoir de ce seuil à 20% Ref. Nouffia Y, Alem C, Filali Zegzouti Y. Assessment of physico-chemical and sensory properties of two date (Phoenix dactylifera L.) cultivars under commercial cold storage conditions. J Food Process Preserv. 2019;00:e14228. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/jfpp.14228">https://doi.org/10.1111/jfpp.14228</a>	<b>Morocco</b>

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reviewed the document and supports the progress of the proposed draft standard for fresh dates to the next step.	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>
Section 3.1.1, "Fresh Date" is inconsistent as up to this section and beyond this section, the term used is "Fresh dates".	<b>ICUMSA</b>

## Appendix IV

**COMMENTS IN REPLY TO CL 2022/43/OCS-FFV - REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STANDARD FOR BANANAS (CXS 205-1997)**

*Comments of Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Iran, Kenya and Saudi Arabia*

COMMENT	MEMBER / OBSERVER
No se tiene oposición a su aprobación ni observaciones	<b>Chile</b>
Costa Rica considera que el texto está listo para su adopción.	<b>Costa Rica</b>
Cuba agradece la oportunidad de responder la CL 2022/43/OCS-FFV y considera lo siguiente: La enmienda propuesta comprende la eliminación de dicha referencia única al grupo AAA insertada en el texto de la Sección 1 - Definición del producto, teniendo en cuenta que el Grupo AAA, así como los Otros Grupos (AA, AB y AAB) se enumeran en el Anexo. La eliminación de la única referencia al Grupo AAA en la Sección 1 - Definición del producto tiene como objetivo ampliar la aclaración de las variedades reguladas para una mejor adopción de la Norma y transparencia en el comercio de bananos, por lo que apoyamos lo que se plantea.	<b>Cuba</b>
Esta norma se aplica a las variedades comerciales de banano (plátano) cultivadas de Musa spp. <del>(AAA)</del> , de la familia de las Musaceae, en estado verde, que habrán de suministrarse frescas al consumidor, después de su acondicionamiento y envasado. Se excluyen los bananos (plátanos) destinados solamente para su cocción o a la elaboración industrial. Las variedades reguladas por esta norma se indican en el Anexo  El texto que se eliminará se indica en <del>negrita/tachado</del> .  Se acepta la eliminación del texto (AAA)	<b>Ecuador</b>
Egypt agrees on the proposed amendment	<b>Egypt</b>
Yes. India supports the adoption of the text by CAC45. During CCFFV22, there was a broad support for the editorial amendment of CXS 205-1997 to align the Scope of the Standard.	<b>India</b>
Iran agrees with adoption proposed amendment to the standard for Bananas (CXS 205-1997)	<b>Iran</b>
Comment: Kenya supports the editorial amendment of CXS 205-1997 to align the Scope of the Standard to correctly reflect the list of varieties covered by its Annex, providing better guidance to Members and the banana industry.	<b>Kenya</b>
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports the proposed amendment to the Standard for Bananas (CXS 205-1997).	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>