

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

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### DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE METAL CONTENT CXS 280 (BUTTER OIL)

(Prepared by Iran)

#### Introduction:

Butter oil mainly known as yellow-ghee in Iran is one of the most expensive and valuable products of milk fat, which is very popular due to its organoleptic properties as well as rheological properties. Its annual production in Iran is about 1500 tons and about 500 tons are exported.

#### ISSUES:

**CXS 280** -1973, (**Standard** for Milk fat Products) has been set the maximum amount of **copper** (Cu) and **iron** (Fe) in this product at **0.05** and **0.2 mg/kg**, respectively, while in **CXS 210** the maximum amount of copper and iron for refined vegetable edible oils are **0.1** and **1.5 mg/kg** and for **virgin and edible cold press oils** are **0.4** and **5 mg/kg** respectively.

Therefore, Iran has been done a few studies on metal parameters in butter oils produced according to the two main variables of animal source and season. The results showed that the average amount of copper and iron obtained in butter oils in terms of animal source and season is higher than the maximum allowed standard of 280 codex and the amounts of these elements were influenced by factors such as type of livestock and environmental factors. The range of non-compliance for iron is greater than the amount of copper and was generally several times CXS 280 limit. In addition, the results of the other researches around the world were the same as our studies and the content of these metals particularly iron was more than the specified limit in this standard. Since the maximum allowable values in Codex 210 are higher than the standard codex of 280 and the possibility of oxidation of vegetable oils due to unsaturated acids is much higher, therefore, it is proposed to match these limits with Codex 210 in order to figure out the export problem and standard harmonization.

#### PROPOSAL

Iran proposes this CRD due to below matters:

- 1- Since butter oil is included in the milk and milk products committee and due to this committee is inactive currently.
- 2- Butter oil/fat is **edible fat**, therefore, in our opinion, this committee is the best committee in terms of the issue, considering the inactivity of its main committee same as fish oil when this standard was proposed, the fish and fish products committee was inactive and fish oil was compiled in this committee.