



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
STANDARD

**REGIONAL STANDARD
FOR CANNED HUMUS
WITH TEHENA (NEAR EAST)**
CXS 257R-2007



ADOPTED 2007
AMENDED 2025

CXS 257R-2007

History of the standard

2025 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-eighth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in November 2025, amendments were made in Section 4: “Food additives” to align with the *General standard for food additives* (CXS 192-1995), to include labelling provisions in Section 9.2: “Labelling of non-retail containers”, and in Section 10: “Methods of analysis and sampling” by replacing methods of analysis with a reference to the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999).

This publication was redesigned and published in 2025.

Adopted in 2007.

1 Scope

This standard applies to canned humus with tehena as defined in Section 2: "Description" and offered for direct consumption.

2 Description

2.1 Product definition

Canned humus with tehena is the product:

- a) prepared from pure, dry, washed, boiled and mashed chickpeas with tehena added with or without salt;
- b) packed in a well-sealed container; and
- c) processed by heat in an appropriate manner, before or after being hermetically sealed in a container, so as to prevent spoilage.

3 Essential composition and quality factors

3.1 Basic ingredients

Chickpeas and tehena.

3.2 Optional ingredients

- a) salt;
- b) lemon juice; and
- c) condiments and spices.

3.3 Quality factors – general

The end product shall meet the following general requirements:

- a) All the ingredients, including food additives, shall comply with their own standards, and be safe for human consumption.
- b) The product shall be free from abnormal, foreign matters and insects and parts of them.
- c) The product shall be free from added filling material, i.e. flour, starch, etc.
- d) The mixture shall be pasty, homogeneous and free from agglomeration.
- e) The product shall be natural in flavour, colour and odour.
- f) The product shall not contain any added fat content except that of tehena origin.

3.4 Quality factors – specific

The following requirements apply to the final product when prepared ready for consumption in accordance with the instructions for use:

- a) the minimum content of tehena is 8% (m/m);
- b) the maximum content of salt is 2% (m/m);
- c) the minimum content of total solids is 27% (m/m); and
- d) the maximum content of total acidity is 1% (m/m), as citric acid.

4 Food additives

Only certain acidity regulators, anticaking agents, and stabilizers as indicated in Table 3 of the *General standard for food additives* (CXS 192-1995)¹ are acceptable for use in foods conforming to this standard.

5 Contaminants

The product covered by this standard shall comply with the maximum limits for contaminants and the maximum residues limits for pesticides 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 *General principles of food hygiene* (CXC 1-1969),² *Code of hygienic practice for low-acid and acidified low-acid canned foods* (CXC 23-1979)³ and other relevant Codex texts such as codes of hygienic practice and codes of practice.

The product should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the *Principles and guidelines for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria related to foods* (CXG 21-1997).⁴

7 Packaging and storage

The product shall be packed in containers, which will safeguard the hygienic, nutritional and organoleptic quality of the end product.

The product shall be stored in a well-ventilated store, protected against direct heat, moisture and contamination.

The used metal container shall be coated with food-grade lacquer, suitable for the product, with no mechanical defect and rust free.

The end product container shall have no swelling; the inner pressure shall be less than atmospheric pressure at 20 °C.

8 Weights and measures

8.1 Fill of the container

8.1.1 Minimum fill

The container shall be well filled with the product, and the product shall occupy not less than 90 percent of the water capacity of the container. The water capacity of the container is the volume of distilled water at 20 °C which the sealed container will hold when completely filled.

9 Labelling

The product shall be labelled in accordance with the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985).⁵

9.1 Name of the food

The name of the food shall be “humus with tehena”.

9.2 Labelling of non-retail containers

The labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021).⁶

10 Methods of analysis and sampling

For checking compliance with this standard, the methods of analysis and sampling contained in the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999)⁷ relevant to the provisions in this standard shall be used.

Referenced texts

- 1 *General standard for food additives* (CXS 192-1995).
- 2 *General principles of food hygiene* (CXC 1-1969).
- 3 *Code of hygienic practice for low-acid and acidified low-acid canned foods* (CXC 23-1979).
- 4 *Principles and guidelines for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria related to foods* (CXG 21-1997).
- 5 *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985).
- 6 *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021).
- 7 *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999).

Codex Alimentarius

A collection of international food standards developed to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in the food trade. Codex standards are adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, an intergovernmental body with 189 Members, established by FAO and WHO. The standards are recognized by the World Trade Organization as the benchmark for the safety of internationally traded food.

Codex Secretariat

Contacts

codex@fao.org
codexalimentarius.org
x.com/FAOWHOCodex
youtube.com/@UNFAO

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Rome, Italy