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TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organisations

FROM: Secretariat, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme,
Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,
00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: **Request for information and comments on proposals for changes/addition to the INS list**

DEADLINE: 15 September 2012

COMMENTS: To:

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

1. Members and interested International Organizations, as directed above, are invited to provide proposals for changes/addition to the INS list. Comments should be submitted on the basis of the following attached Annexes to this Circular Letter:

Annex 1 - Principles for proposals for changes to Section 3 “*International Numbering System – INS*” of CAC/GL 36-1989;

Annex 2 - Form for submitting proposals for changes to the INS list.

2. Information and comments, submitted in response to this Circular Letter, will be considered by the electronic Working Group on INS established by the 44th CCFA, to prepare a proposal for addition/changes to the INS list for circulation for comments at Step 3 for consideration at the 45th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, tentatively scheduled to be held in Beijing, China, from 18 to 22 March 2013 (*see* REP12/FA, para. 149).

Annex 1**PRINCIPLES FOR PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO SECTION 3 “INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM – INS” OF CAC/GL 36-1989****1. New additives**

Since the INS is an open list, requests for the inclusion of new additives may be made by Codex members that authorize the additive for use in that country and for which an INS number is needed. The numbers are roughly grouped by functional class. For example, colours are numbered from 100 to 199.

2. New sub-classes of INS numbers

The INS uses a hierarchical set of numbers, alphabetical suffixes (i.e., (a), (b), etc.), and numerical subscripts (i.e., (i), (ii), etc.) to identify food additives. Alphabetical suffixes are used to further characterize the different classes of an additive (e.g., produced by different processes).

As an example, four types of caramel are listed in the INS list: INS 150a “Caramel I – plain caramel,” INS 150b “Caramel II –sulfite caramel,” INS 150c “Caramel III – ammonia caramel,” and INS 150d “Caramel IV – sulfite ammonia caramel.” Numerical subscripts are used to distinguish between related additives that have different Codex specifications. As an example, three additives with numerical subscripts (INS160d(i) “Lycopene (synthetic),” INS 160d(ii) “Lycopene, tomato,” and INS 160d(iii) “Lycopene, *Blakeslea trispora*” are found under the “parent” additive INS 160d “Lycopenes.”

3. New or additional technological purposes

The Technological Purposes given in the INS are purely indicative and should not be taken in any way to be exhaustive. Proposals for the inclusion of a new Technological Purpose should be accompanied by a suitable reference, such as:

- Evidence that the compound has been or is capable of being used effectively for the technological purpose proposed; or
- A Codex commodity standard has provisions for the use of the compound with the proposed technological purpose; or
- The JECFA specification monograph lists the technological purpose under the heading “Functional Uses”; or
- A national food authority has permitted such a use; or
- The food industry is currently using a substance for the technological purpose proposed

4. Modification of an existing INS name or INS number of an additive from the INS list

Proposals for the modification of an existing INS name or INS number should be accompanied by a suitable justification. A suitable justification is, for example:

- The INS list contains an error; or
- The name in the INS is so different from that used by JECFA that confusion may result; or
- The name in the INS list is unsuitable for labelling purposes; or
- The name in the INS list is inconsistent with the names of other related additives

5. Deletion of an additive from the INS list

Proposals for deletion of INS entries should be accompanied by a suitable justification. A suitable justification is, for example:

- Health risk issues, e.g. JECFA has withdrawn an acceptable daily intake (ADI) based on new toxicological data;
- Evidence that the additive is not commercially manufactured or used; or
- Evidence that the additive cannot be considered to fall under the Codex definition of a food additive

Annex 2**FORM ON WHICH INFORMATION ON CHANGES TO INS IS PROVIDED**

In completing this form, only brief information is required. The form may be retyped if more space is needed under any one heading provided that the general format is maintained.

The change is requested by:

Justification for the requested INS change in Section 3: new or additional technological purpose (only select the appropriate option and provide details in the space below)

- Evidence that the compound has been or is capable of being used effectively for the technological purpose proposed
- A Codex Commodity standard has provisions for the use of the compound
- The JECFA specification monograph lists the technological purpose under the heading "Functional Uses"
- A national food authority has permitted such a use
- The food industry is currently using a substance for the technological purpose proposed
- Other justification, what?

Details:

Justification for the requested INS change in Section 3: modification of an existing INS name or INS number purpose (only select the appropriate option and provide details in the space below)

- The INS list contains an error
- The name in the INS is so different from that used by JECFA that confusion may result
- The name in the INS list is unsuitable for labelling purposes
- The name in the INS list is inconsistent with the names of other related additives
- Other justification, what?

Details

Justification for the requested INS change in Section 3: deletion of additive purpose (only select the appropriate option and provide details in the space below)

- Health risk issues, e.g. JECFA has withdrawn an acceptable daily intake (ADI) based on new toxicological data
- Evidence that the additive is not commercially manufactured or used
- Evidence that the additive cannot be considered to fall under the definition of a food additive
- Other justification, what?

Details