

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

CL 2016/30-FFV
July 2016

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: Request for Comments at Step 6 on the draft Standard for Aubergines

DEADLINE: 31 August 2017

BACKGROUND:

1. The 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2016)¹ (CAC39) considered the proposed draft Standard for Aubergines for adoption at Step 5/8. The following discussion took place as indicated in paragraphs 2 through 4.
2. Delegations supporting the adoption of the proposed draft standard at Step 5 only, rather than at Step 5/8, expressed the following views:
 - having a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class is not in line with the concept of “Extra” Class, where the products classified “Extra” must be of an exceptional nature;
 - with the same tolerance for decay (1%) in both “Extra” Class and Class I, there is no meaningful distinction between the two classes;
 - the general topic of allowing decay in “Extra” Class is under consideration in CCFFV and it is prudent to decide on this issue in the layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables before including such tolerances in individual standards;
 - the technical provisions concerning sizing and tolerances, allowances of mixtures of varieties / commercial types in the same container are still ongoing.
3. Delegations in favour of the adoption of the proposed draft standard at Step 5/8 expressed these views:
 - inclusion of allowances for decay in “Extra” class is realistic and reflected current industry and trade practices for fresh fruits and vegetables;
 - absence allowances for decay in “Extra” class implies “0” tolerance (which is unrealistic for perishable products such as fruits and vegetables subject to transport and storage before reaching final destination) might create a technical barrier to trade contrary to the objective of Codex standards;
 - inclusion of allowances for decay in the “Extra” class prevents rejection or downgrading of the whole lot which is consistent with the *Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems* (CAC/GL 47-2003);
 - the proposed tolerances for decay of 1% in “Extra” Class and 1% in Class I apply to different percentages of tolerances in the two classes for the whole lot and therefore, there is a distinction between the allowances for decay in “Extra” Class and Class I;
 - all the technical issues have been thoroughly examined by CCFFV and the proposed draft standard is the compromise position.
4. Mexico, as host country of CCFFV, indicated that the technical issues should be submitted to CCFFV for further consideration.
5. CAC39 noted that the proposed draft standard was ahead of schedule and there was sufficient time to deal with the technical issues. CAC39 thus agreed to adopt the proposed draft Standard at Step 5 and requested that all comments submitted at the present session should be re-submitted to CCFFV20 (October 2017) to finalize the text by the next session.

¹ [REP16/CAC](#) paras 16-20 and Appendix IV

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

6. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments at Step 6 on the draft Standard for Aubergines, as per the general guidance below (see paragraphs 10 - 15). The Standard is available in REP16/FFV, Appendix II.
7. The draft standard is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS):
<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>
8. In submitting comments, careful consideration should be given to the points raised during the adoption of the Standard at CAC39 in particular: allowances for tolerances for decay in "Extra" Class; provisions for sizing and their tolerances and the need for a sizing table as usually applied in Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables; allowances of mixtures of varieties / commercial types especially in the provisions for presentation vis-à-vis their impact on the application of quality requirements in section 2. Any other relevant comments on other sections of the Standard should be submitted with the appropriate rationale.
9. In submitting comments, consideration should also be given to the provisions and language that commonly apply to Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables as agreed by CCFFV19 (October 2015) is available in REP16/FFV, Appendix VII (A few provisions are still under discussion in CCFFV, see REP16/FFV, paragraphs 100 and 101). The Layout clearly indicates which provisions are depending on the nature of produce or on the current / usual industry / trade practices related to a particular produce and therefore do not commonly apply to fresh fruits and vegetables.

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

10. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
11. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting "Enter" in the "My reviews" page, available after login to the system.
12. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments).
13. At the end of the commenting period, the host country secretariat (Mexico) will compile comments in a relevant working document using the system.
14. Additional guidance on the OCS can be found on the Codex website:
<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/ocs/en/>.
15. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.