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JOINT FAO/WHO PROGRAM ON FOOD STANDARDS
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS
REPORT OF SECOND MEETING, LONDON, 2-4 MARCH 1965

Explanatory Note

The following points should be noted with regard to the attached report of the Second Meeting of the Codex Committee on Sugars:

1. Appendix I, List of participants, has been deleted.
2. All references to Appendix II refer to ALINORM 65/21(1) containing the seven sugar standards which have reached Step 5 of the Commission's Procedure for the Elaboration of world-wide standards (see paragraph 18 of the report).
3. Appendix III has been deleted from this reports. This appendix contains standards for lactose and fructose which have reached Step 3 of the Commission's Procedure for the elaboration of world-wide standards. These standards were sent out for circulation to Member States and Associate Members of FAO and WHO and to international organizations concerned in order to obtain their comments (see paragraphs 19-24 of the report).
4. References to other Codex Committees:
 - Codex Committee on Labelling (see paragraph 25(a)). With regard to the labelling of powdered sugar containing anticaking agents, the first meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling stated as follows: "35. Powdered sugar* The Committee was informed that the Codex Committee on Sugars had requested the opinion of this Committee on its proposal to require a label declaration of the presence of anti-caking agents in powdered sugar. The Committee noted that this proposal was in accordance with the general principles adopted and that it will have an opportunity for detailed consideration of the labeling aspects of the powdered sugar standard at a later stage,"
 - Codex Committee on Food Additives (see paragraph 25(b)). This Committee's attention was drawn to the problem of the maximum limit for inorganic anti-caking agents in powdered sugar and to the question of setting limits for impurities in such agents.

JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS

REPORT OF LONDON MEETING 2nd - 4th MARCH, 1965

1. The Codex Committee on Sugars held its second meeting from 2nd to 4th March, 1965 in London under the chairmanship of Mr. J. H. V. Davies of the United Kingdom. The meeting was attended by 33 delegates and observers, from 13 Governments and 4 International Organisations. An apology for absence was received from the Government of Czechoslovakia owing to the sudden illness of the appointed delegate. A list of those participating is attached at Appendix I.

2. At the request of the United States delegation the proposal referred to in paragraph 16 of the Report of the Committee's first meeting was not discussed so as to allow additional time for its further study by those interested.

Health Aspects of Sugars

3. The Committee agreed to ask the United Kingdom Secretariat to produce detailed proposals for circulation to Members and consideration at the next meeting of the Committee as follows:

- (a) microbiological criteria, the filth tests and any other necessary requirement or test with regard to health or hygiene;
- (b) sampling and methods of analysis in connection with any test considered necessary under (a) above.

White Sugar

4. In considering the comments received on the draft standards elaborated at its first meeting the Committee decided that there should be only one standard for white sugar. It was agreed that the proposed standard for Extra White Sugar should be abandoned and that the proposed standard for White Sugar should be suitably modified. Details of the revised standard are set out in Sheet I to Appendix II. The Cuban delegation suggested that this sugar should be designated as "Refined Sugar" in preference to "White Sugar", since this was the term used in international trade to denote a highly purified sugar. All other delegations, however, preferred the designation "White Sugar". It was pointed out that the proposed standard would not prevent sugar conforming to the standard for "White Sugar" being described as "Refined Sugar". (See last sentence of paragraph 18).

5. It was agreed that there was a lack of information about the colour, measured in ICUMSA units, of much of the white sugar in international trade. Before coming to a final decision on the provision in the standard on colour, further information should be sought. It was agreed:-

- (a) that the present figure should be retained in the standard on a tentative basis;
- (b) that ICUMSA should be asked to arrange for their national committees in various countries to conduct colour analyses according to the specified method on similar samples of sugar;
- (c) that Members conducting analyses on sugar produced and sold in their countries should be asked to send the results to the United Kingdom Secretariat, specifying the methods used, in good time for consultation

with ICUMSA and for subsequent circulation at the next meeting of the Committee.

6. It was agreed that the figure for extraneous insoluble matter should be further considered when a satisfactory method of determination had been agreed. The Committee understood that ICUMSA had such a method in course of preparation. The Committee noted the view of the French delegation that, in view of the results of experiments which had been carried out in France, it seemed very probable that a higher figure than 20 p.p.m. - probably 40 p.p.m. - would be required. It was agreed that the present figure should be retained in the standard on a tentative basis. The Committee asked ICUMSA to prepare a report for it on this matter as soon as possible in its application to all the standards under consideration. .

Powdered Sugar

7. In view of the decision to abandon the proposed standard for Extra White Sugar the Committee decided to amend the proposed definition of Powdered Sugar. The Committee also decided to introduce a provision in the standard on labelling of powdered sugars containing anti-caking agents. The revised standard is set out in Sheet 2 of Appendix II.

8. In maintaining its reference on anti-caking agents to the Codex Committee on Food Additives, the Committee agreed to add that it considered that, from a technological point of view, the maximum total content of inorganic anti-caking agents should be set at 1.5%. It also decided to draw the attention of the Codex Committee on Food Additives to the suggestion of one delegation that limits for impurities in inorganic anti-caking agents should be specified. .

Soft Sugars and Brown Sugars

9. The Committee considered the inclusion in the draft standard of a minimum limit for invert sugar and various levels were suggested by delegations. Since it was not possible for the Committee to agree on any one of the suggested limits it was agreed to specify a maximum limit only for the present. The inclusion of a moisture content was also considered, but it was decided not to make such a provision in the draft standard. The draft standard as revised by the Committee is set out at Sheet 3 of Appendix II.

Glucose Syrup

10. The Committee decided that the maximum limit for sulphated ash should be expressed on a dry basis as 1.0% The United States delegation considered that this figure was too high and considered a maximum limit of 0.35% on a dry basis would be more satisfactory.

11. The Committee also decided to reduce the maximum limit for sulphur dioxide to 40 p.p.m. in glucose syrup in general "but agreed that glucose syrup used for manufacturing purposes only (e.g. confectionery) could contain up to 400 p.p.m. The revised standard is set out at Sheet 4 of Appendix II.

Dried Glucose Syrup

12. The draft standard was amended by the Committee in a similar manner to that for Glucose Syrup except that it was decided that Members should be asked to provide information about the amounts of sulphur dioxide actually present in dried glucose syrup used for manufacturing purposes, in particular, confectionery. The revised standard is set out at Sheet 5 of Appendix II.

Dextrose Monohydrate

13. The Committee decided to specify a minimum total solids content instead of a maximum moisture content. It was agreed to reduce the maximum limit for sulphur dioxide and to increase the maximum limit for copper to that specified for White Sugar. The Danish delegation pointed out that some of the dextrose produced in Denmark had a copper content of up to 3 p.p.m. and preferred this higher figure. The revised standard is set out in Sheet 6 of Appendix II.

Dextrose Anhydrous .

14. The Committee agreed to make similar modifications to the standard as those (for Dextrose Monohydrate. The revised standard is set out in Sheet 7 of

Copper Limits

15. The Committee considered the need for specifying a maximum limit for copper in the standards for Soft and Brown Sugars, Glucose Syrup and Dried Glucose" Syrup. It was decided that further information was necessary on this subject before the Committee could reach any firm conclusions and it was agreed to ask Members and ICUMSA to carry out tests on copper levels in these sugars.

Sampling and Methods of Analysis

16. The Committee agreed that it would be useful for its future discussions to have available, for information, a paper containing references to the current international position on the sampling procedures and methods of analysis covering the determination of analytical criteria, other than those of health, included in the draft standards contained in Appendix II. The United Kingdom Secretariat was asked to prepare the paper in consultation with ICUMSA.

Sub-standards for Soft and Brown Sugars

17. During the discussion on the draft standard for Soft and Brown Sugars, the United States delegation drew attention to the wide variety of these sugars and suggested that there was a need for standards to cover those products. It was agreed that the United States delegation should be asked to prepare a paper for consideration at the next meeting containing specific proposals. The United States delegation agreed to do so.

Submission of Standards to Codex Alimentarius Commission

18. The Committee finally agreed that the standards contained in Appendix II of this report should be transmitted to the Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as proposed draft provisional Standards for submission to the Commission with a view to their adoption as draft provisional Standards at the next Session of the Commission (Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Standards - Page 57 of the Report of the Second Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission). The Committee also agreed that all these standards should be put forward as minimum platform standards.

Further Standards

19. The Committee considered the further proposals for standards contained in Codex/Sugars/5. It was agreed that there was no need at present to elaborate standards for: Dyed Sugar, Liquid Sugar, Invert Sugar, Starch Sugar, Golden Syrup and Treacle, but that minimum platform standards should be drawn up for Lactose and Fructose.

20. The Committee decided that one standard for Lactose would suffice and drew up the standard as set out in Sheet No. 1 of Appendix III. The delegation of Poland preferred two standards for Lactose and, with the Swedish delegation, considered that the proposed lactose limit in the single standard was too high.

21. The Australian delegation pointed to recent advances in knowledge about forms of coliform organisms, which may have importance in lactose. The United Kingdom Secretariat was asked to take this into account when preparing the paper on health aspects referred to in paragraph 3. The Committee also considered a suggestion from the Netherlands delegation that a maximum limit for Phosphate, calculated as Phosphorus, of 0.05% should be included in the standard. It was agreed to ask Member Governments for specific comments on this question.

22. The Committee drew up the standard for Fructose which is set out in Sheet 2 of Appendix III.

23. The Netherlands delegation suggested that provision should be made for a Protein test in the Lactose standard and the Swiss delegation considered that a Chromatographic Test, for the presence of other sugars, should be included in the Fructose standard. The Committee decided to seek the views of Member Governments on the need for these tests, and to request them to give their views on the need for other tests. Governments should further be asked to give details of any tests that they suggested.

24. The Committee finally agreed that the standards contained in Appendix III of this report should be sent to the Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for circulation to Member States and Associate Members of F.A.O. and W.H.O. and to international organisations concerned in order to obtain their comments (Step 3 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of World-wide Standards -Page 57 of the Report of the Second Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission).

References to other Codex Committees

25. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat of the Food Standards Program should be asked to inform -

- (a) the Codex Committee on Labelling of the decision to introduce a labelling provision in the standard for powdered sugars containing anti-caking agents (see paragraph 7 and Sheet No. 2 of Appendix II) and,
- (b) the Codex Committee on Food Additives of the Committee's view about the maximum limit for inorganic anti-caking agents and of the suggestion that limits for impurities in such agents should be specified (see paragraph 8 and the footnote to Sheet No. 2 of Appendix II).