

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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

Agenda Item 6

CRD26

Original language only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-third Session

PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION TO THE *INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM (INS) FOR FOOD ADDITIVES (CXG 36-1989)*

(Comments of Burundi, Ghana, Nigeria, Paraguay, Russian Federation and Rwanda)

Burundi

Proposed draft revision to the International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989)

CX/FA 23/53/13

Comment: Burundi supports the proposed additions/deletions to the INS list as presented in the annex; and other proposals which are either not acceptable or premature, as outlined in previous paragraphs (paragraphs 8, 12, 15 and 18) to be requested for further information and technological justification

Justification: The proposed additions to the INS list as presented in the annex have been provided acceptable technological justification on their functions as food additives in certain food categories.

Ghana

Issue 1: Review the proposed additions/changes/deletions to the INS list **Position:** Ghana supports the recommendation of the EWG to adopt the functional class and technological purpose of the listed food additives.

Rationale: The technological justification for the functional class and objectives were provided for the specified food additives. For INS 960b (i), the standard for this additive has now been incorporated into the standard for stevia glycosides for fermentation (INS 960b)

Issue 2: Review other proposals that are not acceptable or are premature, as described in the following paragraphs:

Addition of Blue Microalgae Extract Position: Ghana supports the advice of the EWG.

Rationale: It is premature to include this additive before the JECFA evaluation.

Addition of functions in alignment with JECFA and Codex

Position: Ghana supports the advice of the EWG.

Rationale: The terms used to name the categories for items "e" and "f" do not exist in section 2 of CXG 36-1989. The referenced standard CXS 243-200 for points "f" and "g" 3 does not justify the use of these additives as requested. The standard also classifies thickeners and stabilizers together, which makes it impossible to make a clear statement on the role of each of them. Therefore, it would be premature to include these additives in the absence of sufficient data.

Assignment of an INS number to Aspergillus Niger Fungal Amylase and inclusion of the functional class and technological function «flour treatment agent»

Position: Ghana supports the advice of the EWG.

Rationale: It is premature to include this additive when it has not been evaluated by JECFA.

The relevance of including one or more synonyms for Jagua Blue (genipin-glycine) (INS 183).

Position: Ghana supports the advice of the EWG.

Rationale: It is premature to include synonyms for this additive in the absence of proposals from members.

Nigeria

A. Matters for information

The 52nd session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA52) held virtually from 8 to 13 November 2021 agreed to establish an electronic Working Group (EWG), chaired by Belgium and co-chaired by the Islamic Republic of Iran, open to all Members and Observers and working in English only, to consider: -

- a. replies to the CL 2021/30-FA requesting proposals for change and/ or addition to Section 3 of the Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989); and preparing a proposal for circulation for comments at Step 3;
- b. assigning an INS number to fungal amylase from *Aspergillus niger* and including the functional class and technological purpose of “flour treatment agent”; and
- c. the appropriateness to include one or more synonyms for Jagua (genipin- glycine) blue (INS 183) as requested in CX/FA 21/52/11 Add. 1.
- d. Replies to the circular letter on addition and changes to INS

B. Matters for action

Addition of Blue Microalgae Extract

The United Kingdom (UK) requested to add the colour “Blue Microalgae extract” and provided a justification that “Blue Microalgae extract” was a new colour additive based on a phycocyanin-rich extract from *Galdieria sulphuraria*; and that there was evidence that the compound had been or was capable of being used effectively for the technological purpose proposed. The EWG noted that they were aware about submissions of applications in EU, UK and USA but not of any authorization as food additive yet; and that they were also not aware that this colour is on the world market yet and it does not have any official name yet. The name “**Blue microalgae extract**” was not considered appropriate by the EWG, as it was too generic since *Galdieria sulphuraria* is not the only blue microalgae extract existing or on the market; there is also spirulina extract (INS 134). Both the extracts of *Galdieria sulphuraria* and spirulina are based on phycocyanins, hence phycocyanins would not be an appropriate specific name either. It was also recognised that, there is no group ADI for phycocyanins and without JECFA opinion or other risk assessment it is impossible to make conclusions about the comparison of the substances in the extract of Spirulina and the extract of *Galdieria sulphuraria*. Therefore, a group name is not appropriate.

The Chair and co-Chair of the EWG proposed to the EWG to discuss whether it was appropriate and timely to include a new additive “Blue Galdieria extract” as INS 135 with technological purpose as a colour, in the Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989). This number is not in INS yet and is not on the list of deleted numbers either and it is the next number after INS 134 Spirulina extract. The name “Blue Galdieria extract” is more specific than “Blue microalgae extract”. **Several Members of the EWG considered it premature** to include this food additive as no authorization has been granted for this colour as food additive, neither a safety assessment nor specifications are publicly available.

The EWG was of the view not to include this food additive in CXG 36-1989 at the current stage

Comment: Nigeria agrees with the EWG not to add Microalgae extract as food additive in step 3.

Justification: This addition should not be included in step 3 till JECFA opinion and other risk assessments are completed.

Peru submitted a list of requests for additions

- For INS 419 gum ghatti, to add the functional class of “carrier” based on the JECFA specifications monograph of 2017.
- For INS 1207 methacrylate copolymer, anionic, to consider the technological purpose of “coating agent” (falls under the functional class of glazing agent) based on the JECFA specifications monograph of 2018.
- For INS 427 cassia gum, to add the technological purposes “foam stabilizer” (falls under the functional class “stabilizer”), “moisture-retention agent” (falls under the functional class “humectant” which is not yet in INS for cassia gum, so this is also considered as a request for the functional class humectant) and “texturizing agent” (falls under the functional class “thickener”) based on the JECFA specifications monograph of 2018.
- For INS 445(iii) glycerol ester of wood rosin, to add the technological purpose “plasticizer” (falls under the functional class “emulsifier”) based on the JECFA specifications monograph of 2018.
- For INS 455 yeast mannoproteins, to add the technological purpose “wine stabilizer” based on the JECFA specifications monograph of 2019. CX/FA 23/53/13 3 f. For INS 456 potassium polyaspartate, to add the technological purpose “stabiliser (in wine)” based on the JECFA specifications monograph of 2019.

- For INS 338 phosphoric acid, to add the functional classes “stabilizer and thickener”, based on the Standard for Fermented Milks (CXS 243-2003) Adopted in 2003. Revised in 2008, 2010, 2018.

Recommendation 1: The EWG recommends CCFA to consider:

- the proposed additions/deletions to the INS list as presented in the annex; and
- other proposals which are either not acceptable or premature, as outlined in previous paragraphs (paragraphs 8, 12, 15 and 18).

Comment: Nigeria is aligned since this is based on the JECFA opinion

Recommendation 2:

Proposed changes and/or additions to the INS (at Step 3): The INS list in numerical order is proposed to be updated for some food additives. The additions are highlighted with bold/ underlined font. Deleted entries are indicated in bold/underlined/strikethrough font.

Comment: Nigeria supports proposed changes at step 3 annex on page 5 as presented in the Annex.

Paraguay

Paraguay apoya la recomendación del Grupo de Trabajo Electronico en cuanto a las adiciones/ supresiones propuestas a la lista del SIN que se presenta en el Anexo Cambios y/o adiciones propuestos al SIN.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation considers it premature to add the following food additives to the list of Class Names and the International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989):

- blue microalgae extract as a colour with the number INS 134, under which the food additive spirulina extract is included in the CXG 36-1989. The toxicological properties of blue microalgae extract have not been sufficiently studied, the criteria of purity and safety are not established, and it is not clear whether the specification of this food additive correspond with the specification for spirulina extract;
- blue galdieria extract (numbered INS 135), which has not been toxicologically evaluated in full by JECFA, and has no developed criteria for purity and safety;
- E 246 Glycolipids as a preservative; E 1210 Carbomer used as a bulking agent, stabilizer, thickener proposed for inclusion in CXG 36-1989 by the European Union because acrylic acid polymers can be used in the food industry only as technological aids. These substances are not approved for use in the food industry of the Russian Federation and the Eurasian Economic Union.

Rwanda

AGENDA ITEM	Section or Paragraph	Nature of comment (Indicate whether technical or editorial)	Comment/Proposed Changes	Rationale
Agenda 6 CL 2023/4-FA	<u>GSFA Online</u> and Codex stan 193	Editorial	Rwanda support Proposed changes and/or additions to the INS with the following comments: The functional class provided under the specification at <u>GSFA Online</u> and in Codex stan 193 indicates that Gum ghatti has also a functional class of carrier. Consider aligning these information in CXG 36	For consistency purpose