

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 12 A

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Thirty-fifth Session

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 17 - 21 March 2003

COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON REVISIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM IN RESPONSE TO CL 2002/29-FAC

The following comments have been received from USA, Israel, European Community, OFCA:

USA:

The United States requests clarification as to the correct INS number for alpha-cyclodextrin. It is our understanding that the only cyclodextrin in the International Numbering System published in Volume 1A of the Codex Alimentarius in 1999 is beta-cyclodextrin (459). The 24th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2001) adopted INS number 458 for gamma-cyclodextrin (ALINORM 01/41 para. 126, and ALINORM 01/12A Appendix IX). However, the report of the 34th CCFAC (ALINORM 03/12, para. 20) suggests that INS 458 also applies to alpha-cyclodextrin. We can find no evidence of the CCFAC endorsing or the Commission adopting INS 458 for alpha-cyclodextrin and believe that it is incorrect to associate INS 458 with alpha-cyclodextrin. Rather, we believe that alpha-cyclodextrin has not been assigned an INS number. We note that INS 457 has not been assigned. The CCFAC may wish to consider assigning alpha-cyclodextrin INS number 457.

The CCFAC has requested information on the use of invertase from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, β -carotene from *Blakeslea trispora*, and D-tagatose for inclusion in Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA. We note that invertases have been assigned INS number 1103 and β -carotene (natural extracts) has been assigned INS number 160a(ii). The United States proposes that the CCFAC consider including invertase from *S. cerevisiae* under INS 1103 and β -carotene from *B. trispora* under INS 160a(ii). We also propose that D-tagatose be assigned INS number 962 because D-tagatose is used primarily as a sweetener.

ISRAEL:

The Israeli Ministry of Health I would like to express support for the draft amendment of INS numbers for Mineral Oils. The new numbers will better reflect existing differences of toxicity and specifications of various types of mineral oils.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:

No comments are to be made with regard to the draft revision to the International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives – Mineral Oil (INS 905) (AINORM03/12, Appendix VII).

OFCA (the Organisation des Fabricants de produits Cellulosiques Alimentaire):

OFCA, the “Organisation des Fabricants de produits Cellulosiques Alimentaires” represents the manufacturers of food grade cellulose derivatives in the European Union. OFCA has a recognised NGO status for the meetings of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants.

INS 466, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose is both the title of the Jecfa specification as well as the name used in the INS listing. Over the past few years, OFCA members have been working very hard to define a difference between the highly purified food grade ($\geq 99.5\%$) and industrial grades of cellulose derivatives ($< 99.5\%$).

This highly purified food grade of Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose, a thickening agent, has been promoted with success to get clearance for the use of the name “Cellulose Gum” and is about to be accepted and added to the current designated name by the EU Council of Ministers as a part of the latest proposed amendment (5th) of EC Directive 95/2. This dual name will mean that, after acceptance, the Food additive E466 (INS 466), may be labelled as Cellulose Gum.

The name cellulose gum is already used as a synonym under the Jecfa specification. In order to make it possible to use this name on the label OFCA would like to ask your assistance in amending the current INS listing by introducing a dual name for INS 466, i.e Cellulose Gum.

If needed OFCA will be at your disposal for further clarification during the next working group meeting during the 35th CCFAC Meeting in Arusha, Tanzania.

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With reference to the allocation of an ADI “not specified” for INS 468, crosslinked sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (attachment 1) it has become opportune to include INS 468 in the Draft General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA). This product is applied (EU, USA) as disintegrant.

OFCA would like to request you to include INS 468 in Table 3 to the Draft GSFA. with the objective to recognise the use of this additive.

If needed OFCA will be at your disposal for further clarification during the next working group meeting during the 35th CCFAC Meeting in Arusha, Tanzania.