



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS**

**Twenty-fourth Session**

**Melaka, Malaysia, 9 – 13 February 2015**

**MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES**

**A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 36<sup>TH</sup> AND 37<sup>TH</sup> SESSIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**Standards and Related Texts adopted by the Commission<sup>1</sup>**

1. CAC36 (2013) adopted:
  - Amendments to parameters for rice bran oil in the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210 – 1999)*; and
  - Amendments to the *Standards for Edible Fats and Oils not Covered by Individual Standards (CODEX STAN 19-1981)*, for *Named Animal Fats (CODEX STAN 211-1999)*, for *Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CODEX STAN 33-1981)* and for *Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999)*; and
  - Amendments to the lists of acceptable previous cargoes in the *Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk (CAC/RCP 36-1987)*.

**Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk: Draft and Proposed Draft Lists of Acceptable Cargoes<sup>2</sup>**

2. CAC36 agreed to request CCFO to review the *List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes* against the Criteria and to carry out the review on a continuous basis with the view to facilitate the review process of the List.
3. This request **is considered** under Agenda Item 4.

**Guidance on Information Documents<sup>3</sup>**

4. CAC37 (2014) agreed to forward guidance on information documents to all Committees as recommended by CCGP28. The guidance on information documents is attached as Appendix I to this document.
5. The Committee **is invited to note** the above information.

**Codex Strategic Plan 2014 - 2019<sup>4</sup>**

6. CAC 36 adopted Strategic Plan 2014-2019.
7. CAC37 endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the CCEXEC69 to establish a monitoring framework for the implementation of the Strategic Plan including mechanisms for systematic data collection (e.g. templates) to make assessing information from multiple committees easier where these were the main providers of monitoring information.
8. In order to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the Committee **is invited to provide** replies to the activities of relevance as indicated in the provisional template attached at Appendix II to this document.

<sup>1</sup> REP13/CAC para.32 and Appendix III.

<sup>2</sup> REP13/CAC paras 133 and 134.

<sup>3</sup> REP14/CAC, para.105; and REP14/GP, para.86.

<sup>4</sup> REP13/CAC, para.177, Appendix IX, REP14/CAC, para.119 and REP14/EXEC, para.42.

## B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

### 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)<sup>5</sup>

#### Method for relative density

9. CCMAS34 noted that AOCS would re-submit the method for relative density from archive method reference.

#### Proposed Draft Amendment to Parameters for Rice Bran Oil in the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils

10. CCMAS34 agreed with the conclusion of the IAM that ranges in commodity tables should be only changed in response to the availability of the uncorrected results of analysis because although the approach, mean $\pm$ 3SD, might have merit if the total population of data was available for consideration, using this statistic on partial data might skew the values and give rise to misleading information.

11. The Committee **is invited to note** the above information.

#### Endorsement of methods of analysis provisions submitted by CCFO: *Standard on Olive Oil and Olive Pomace Oil* (CODEX STAN 33-1981)

12. CCMAS34 agreed to replace the current IUPAC method for erythrodiol + uvaol content with COI/T.20/doc.No 30-2011 as proposed by the CCFO. As regards the use of this method for the determination of sterol composition and total sterols, CCMAS34 questioned whether the IOC method was equivalent to ISO 12228:1999 (current method) and agreed to ask CCFO for clarification in this respect.

13. The Committee **is invited** to consider the above request.

### 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)<sup>6</sup>

#### Inclusion of rosemary extracts in the draft standard for fish oil

14. CCFA45 agreed to inform CCFO of the process for inclusion of compounds in the Priority List for JECFA evaluation, as described in the Procedural Manual, and to invite interested countries to reply to the Circular Letter and provide the information requested and confirmation of the availability of data for the evaluation by JECFA.

#### Alignment of food additives provisions of commodity standards and relevant provisions of the GSFA

15. CCFA45 agreed to use the amended Decision-tree Approach to Alignment of the GSFA and Commodity Standards Food Additive Provisions for its future work on alignment. The decision-tree was intended for internal use of CCFA only.

16. The Committee **is invited to note** the above information.

### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)<sup>7</sup>

#### Standard for Fish Oils

17. CCCF7 noted that fish oils, which were currently covered by "Edible fats and oils not covered by individual standards" in the GSCTFF, would lose the provisions for lead and arsenic when the Standard for Fish Oils would be elaborated. CCCF7 agreed to consider the allocation of MLs for lead and arsenic for fish oils once the Standard for Fish Oils was finalized and whether the MLs should apply to total arsenic or inorganic arsenic as more appropriate for these products.

#### Transfer of MLs for halogenated solvents from the Standard for Olive Oils and Pomace Oils (CODEX STAN 33-1981) to the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995)

18. CCCF8 noted that there was no support for the transfer of the levels for halogenated solvents from the *Standard for Olive Oils and Pomace Oils* (CODEX STAN 33-1981) to the GSCTFF, however it agreed to recommend CCFO to maintain these levels in CODEX STAN 33-1981 until such time more information on environmental contamination became available that would allow CCCF to make a decision on this matter.

19. The Committee **is invited to note** the above decision and information.

<sup>5</sup> REP13/MAS paras 14, 15 and 43.

<sup>6</sup> REP13/FA paras 13 and 46.

<sup>7</sup> REP13/CF paras 11 and 12 and REP14/CF paras 121-124.

**Guidance on information documents**

- i. It is recognised that there is the occasional need for Codex committees to make available information documents, however Codex committees should not deliberately develop such documents and these documents should be by-products of ongoing work of the Committee.
- ii. Documents are considered to be information documents if they:
  - Have been developed and agreed upon by a Codex committee;
  - Have been determined by the Committee to contain information that is useful to national governments and/or Codex members and observers and Codex committees; and
  - Are not considered appropriate by the Committee to be adopted as Codex standards, guidelines or codes of practice or as recommendations for inclusion in the Procedural Manual.
- iii. Information documents will be made available on the Codex website of the relevant committee, clearly separated from official Codex documents and adopted texts.

## Appendix II

**2014-2019 Strategic Plan Activities for which “all committees” are responsible**

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.	1.1: Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC	1.1.1: Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.	New or updated standards are developed in a timely manner	- Priority setting criteria are reviewed, revised as required and applied. - # of standards revised and # of new standards developed based on these criteria.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
Does the Committee use any specific criteria for standards development? Does the Committee intend to develop such criteria				
	1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues and Member needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.	1.2.1: Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.	Timely Codex response to emerging issues and to the needs of Members.	- Committees implement systematic approaches for identification of emerging issues. - Regular reports on systematic approach and emerging issues made to the CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
How does the Committee identify emerging issues and members needs? Is there a systematic approach? Is it necessary to develop such an approach?				
		1.2.2: Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.	Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its Members.	- Input from committees identifying and prioritizing needs of Members. - Report to CCEXEC from committees on how standards developed address the needs of the Members as part of critical review process.
<b>Included in question to 1.2.</b>				
2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.	2.1: Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.	2.1.1: Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the “Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius”.	Scientific advice consistently taken into account by all relevant committees during the standard setting process.	- # of times the need for scientific advice is: - identified, - requested and, - utilized in a timely manner.

<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
Does the committee request scientific advice in course of its work, how often does it request such advice.				
Does the committee always use the scientific advice, if not, why not?				
		2.1.2: Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of Members and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.	Increase in scientific and technical experts at the national level contributing to the development of Codex standards.	- # of scientists and technical experts as part of Member delegations. - # of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
How do members make sure that the necessary scientific input is given into country positions and that the composition of the national delegation allows to adequately present and discuss this position? What guidance could be given by the Committee or FAO and WHO?				
		2.1.3: Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.	Enhanced identification, and documentation of all relevant factors considered by committees during the development of Codex standards.	- # of committee documents identifying all relevant factors guiding risk management recommendations. - # of committee documents clearly reflecting how those relevant factors were considered in the context of standards development.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
How does the Committee ensure that all relevant factors have been taken into account when developing a standard and how are these documented?				
		2.1.4: Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.	Risk management recommendations are effectively communicated and disseminated to all interested parties.	- # of web publication/ communications relating Codex standards. - # of media releases disseminating Codex standards.
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
When taking a risk management decision, does the committee give guidance to members how to communicate this decision? Would more consideration of this be helpful to members?				
3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.	3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.	3.1.5: To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.	Active participation of Members in committees and working groups.	- Report on number of committees and working groups using the languages of the Commission
<b>Question to the Committee:</b>				
Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.				
Is the use of official languages in working groups of the committee sufficient? What are the factors determining the choice of languages? How could the situation be improved?				

	3.2: Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.	3.2.3: Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.	Enhancement of the opportunities to conduct concurrent activities to maximize use of the resources of Codex and Members.	- # of activities hosted on the margins of Codex meetings.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b></p> <p>Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.</p> <p>Does the Committee organize technical capacity activities or other activities in the margins of Committee sessions? If yes – how many and with which topics have been organized in the past. If no – could this be useful and what topics could be addressed?</p>				
4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.	4.1: Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process.	4.1.4: Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/Commission.	Codex documents distributed in a more timely manner consistent with timelines in the Procedural Manual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Baseline Ratio (%) established for documents distributed at least 2 months prior to versus less than 2 months prior to a scheduled meeting.</li> <li>- Factors that potentially delay the circulation of documents identified and addressed.</li> <li>- An increase in the ratio (%) of documents circulated 2 months or more prior to meetings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b></p> <p>Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.</p> <p>Does the Committee have a mechanism in place to ensure timely distribution of documents? What could be done to further improve the situation?</p>				
		4.1.5: Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.	Improved efficiency in use of resources by Codex committees and Members	- # of physical working group meetings in conjunction with committee meetings, where appropriate.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b></p> <p>Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.</p> <p>Does the Committee hold physical working groups independent of Committee sessions? If yes – why is this necessary?</p>				
	4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.	4.2.1: Improve the understanding of Codex Members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.	Members and delegates awareness of the importance of consensus in the Codex standard setting process improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training material on guidance to achieve consensus developed and made available in the languages of the Commission to delegates.</li> <li>- Regular dissemination of existing material to Members through Codex Contact Points.</li> <li>- Delegate training programs held in association with Codex meetings.</li> <li>- Impediments to consensus being</li> </ul>

				achieved in Codex identified and analyzed and additional guidance developed to address such impediments, if necessary.
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**Question to the Committee:**

Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES/NO.

Are there problems with finding consensus in the Committee? If yes – what are the impediments to consensus? What has been attempted and what more could be done?