

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 7

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES Twenty-second Session Berlin, Germany, 19-23 June 2000

#### DRAFT REVISED STANDARD FOR PROCESSED CEREAL-BASED FOODS FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN - Comments at Step 3 of the Procedure-

#### Comments from:

#### ARGENTINA

**Section 1 - Scope:** We propose removing the square brackets so that the passage reads "from the age of 4 to 6 months onwards". This is justified in that the official recommendation of WHO (Weekly Epidemiological Record No 17, pp 119-120, 20 April 1995) calls for exclusive breast feeding of infants from birth to the age of 4 to 6 months. After this time, breast feeding should be continued and supplemented by the feeding of safe complementary foods in accordance with nutritional requirements. WHO emphasises that complementary feeding should not be introduced either too early or too late.

This recommendation was made following the WHO resolution of 1994.

At the last session of the CCNSFDU in Berlin, the WHO representative pointed out that WHO's position regarding the introduction of complementary feeding at the age of four to six months had not changed as there was no scientific evidence to justify any change at this stage. The representative furthermore announced that a scientific study into this matter is now under way that will take account of data collected from various regions of the world. The study will be completed in the year 2002.

Our position is that the Codex should remain consistent with the WHO recommendation. If this recommendation is modified in future on the basis of new scientific evidence, then the Codex should be amended accordingly.

**Section 3.6 - Minerals:** The square brackets in section 3.6.1 should be deleted. The proposed sodium content of 100mg/100kcal is safe for infants and 200mg/100kcal for the ready to eat product is safe for products intended for children over one year of age.

**Section 3.7 - Vitamins:** The square brackets in section 3.7.1 should be deleted.

**Section 3.8 - Optional ingredients:** In line with the comments under Section 1 Scope, the square brackets should be deleted.

**Section 3.10 - Consistency and particle size:** We propose amending the sentence as follows: "Cuando se prepare de acuerdo a las instrucciones de uso, los alimentos procesados a base de cereales, deberían tener una textura apropiada para la alimentación de lactantes o niños pequeños de la edad para la que el producto está destinado". (*When prepared according to the label directions for use, processed cereal-based foods should have a texture appropriate for the feeding of infants or young children of the age for which the product is intended.*) In effect we propose deleting the reference to "spoon feeding" and replacing it simply with the word "feeding" to reflect the fact that the standard also covers rusks, biscuits and other foods not fed by spoon.

**Section 4 - Food Additives:** We request the inclusion of the natural fruit flavours permitted under the Codex standard for follow-on foods (CODEX STAN 156-1997).

**Section 8.3 - Declaration of nutritive value:** In section 8.3.1(a) the word "calories" should be replaced by "kilocalories".

In section 8.3.1(b), the reference should be to sections 3.6 and 3.7, not to 3.2.2.

**Section 8.5 - Information for use:** We recommend that section 8.5.2 should be written as: "Leche o fórmula y no sólo agua será usada para diluir o mezclar" (*Milk or formula but not water alone shall be used for dilution or mixing.*)

**Section 8.6 - Additional requirements:** We recommend deleting the square brackets in this section. The products covered by the Scope of this standard are complementary foods and not substitutes for breast milk. This concept is in line with the WHO's International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes.