



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Thirty-fourth Session
Bad Soden am Taunus, Germany
3 – 7 December 2012

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE

BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

A. DECISIONS OF THE 34TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

*Proposed Draft Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs)*¹

1. The Delegation of Malaysia did not support the adoption at Step 5/8 because several major issues that would be considered in the Proposed Draft General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values for Nutrients Associated with the Risk of Diet-Related Non-communicable Diseases for General Population, currently at Step 3, were not solved. The Delegation was of the view that the adoption of NRVs for saturated fatty acids and sodium, before the draft principles and criteria had been fully resolved was inconsistent with the decision of the 30thCCNFSDU (2008) to develop principles and criteria for the development of NRVs-NCD, and then select and prioritize nutrients for NRVs. This view was supported by an Observer.
2. The WHO Representative informed the Commission of the work undertaken by the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Diet and Health. Systematic reviews had been undertaken to update the guidelines on sodium, potassium, total fat and sugars intake. Regarding *sodium*, the guidelines are for reducing blood pressure and risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), stroke and coronary heart disease (CHD) in adults and for reducing blood pressure in children. In developing the recommendations, the NUGAG reviewed the issues related to thresholds as well. Regarding *saturated fatty acids (SFA)*, WHO is undertaking the systematic reviews to address health outcomes such as CHD, blood lipids, stroke, diabetes, CVD and all-cause mortality. This work also includes the assessment of thresholds for the prevention of the non-communicable diseases mentioned.
3. The Commission agreed to adopt the Proposed Draft NRVs at Step 5 for further consideration by the CCNFSDU in the light of the outcome of the WHO work on sodium and saturated fatty acids.
4. This item will be considered under Agenda Item 4c.

*Proposed Draft Revision of the Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 8-1991)*²

5. One Observer did not support the adoption because inappropriate marketing was not considered in the labelling section and other sections required further review. One delegation proposed to delete the square brackets in the text in section 6.5.1 concerning use of sweeteners. Other delegations pointed out that this was a technical comment and should be discussed further in the Committee. Several members stressed the need for a revised text as the current provisions of the Guidelines were outdated and therefore supported the current text, with the understanding that it would be further considered in the Committee in the light of the comments made. The Commission agreed to adopt the proposed draft revision at Step 5.
6. This item will be considered under Agenda Item 3.

¹ REP12/CAC paras 30 – 32 and Appendix IV

² REP12/CAC para. 125 and Appendix IV

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

33RD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Methods of analysis for dietary fibres³

7. The Committee recalled that its last session had endorsed several methods of analysis for dietary fibre proposed by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) and had agreed that an electronic working group chaired by the United Kingdom would consider the elaboration of a decision tree to facilitate the selection of available methods for dietary fibre. The Committee considered the Discussion Paper on the Selection of Methods of Analysis for the Determination of Dietary Fibre through the Use of Decision Trees (CX/MAS 12/33/4-Add.2), taking into account the options put forward in the working group on endorsement to address this question.

8. The Committee agreed on the following amendments to the list of methods for dietary fibre included in CODEX STAN 234.

9. The title of the last section of the Table of methods was amended to read “Other methods that have not been subjected to interlaboratory evaluation”, as there was no need to refer to the AOAC international guidelines. In this section it was also agreed that the first entry should refer to “yeast cell wall” instead of “all foods” as the Eurasymp method applies only to yeast cell wall.

10. Several delegations and some observers supported the development of guidance to facilitate the selection of methods, as the adoption of many Type I methods could cause some confusion for analysts, and several proposals were made as to the possible use of the recommendations presented in the working document: including the decision tree and the table with some explanatory text in a separate document; including the Table or part of it as an annex to the list of methods; or inserting footnotes to the list of methods to clarify their applicability on the basis of the information presented in Appendix IV of the working document.

11. Other delegations did not support such guidance in the framework of Codex as additional recommendations may create more confusion, limit the choice of laboratories and result in barriers to trade, and it was preferable to leave the selection of methods to the analysts, since adequate information on the scope was available in the description of each method. These delegations also recalled that as extensive efforts had been required to finalise the list of methods, the development of guidance on method selection was likely to be a long term process. They noted that the document could be useful as reference with some corrections and could be used as a basis for publication in a scientific journal, with the understanding that it should be freely and easily available. Some observers informed the Committee that their organisations could consider the publication of such a paper.

12. Some delegations noted that publication in a scientific journal, even if it was easily available, would not replace guidance on a Codex text in the list of methods or as a separate document. The Committee noted a proposal to refer only to the table in Appendix IV of the working document, which described the applicable sample types and the compounds determined by each method.

13. The Committee considered the Table in Appendix IV of the working document and agreed to make a number of corrections to the “Dietary Fibre Methodology - What is measured and what is not measured” for each of the methods listed in the Table and to present a revised version as a CRD so that it would be available to all delegates. It was agreed that no additional methods should be added as the purpose of the Table was to clarify the fibre components to be analysed for currently adopted methods.

14. The Committee acknowledged the value of the information presented in CRD 16 as a tool which could assist the selection of appropriate methods of analysis for dietary fibre in a particular product.

³ REP12/MAS paras 53 – 60 and Appendix II

44TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

*Standard for Infant Formulas and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants (CODEX STAN 72-1981)*⁴

15. The Committee endorsed the provisions for sodium and potassium phosphates in the Standard, as amended by the in-session Working Group. The Committee noted that the endorsed provision for sodium and potassium phosphates was 45 mg/100 ml, as phosphorus.

C. MATTERS REFERRED FROM OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES**40TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING****Comparative Claims**⁵

16. One delegation proposed that the increase in micronutrient be based on 10% of the micronutrient content between the compared foods rather than on the NRV, which was not commonly used at the national level, and suggested to refer question to the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU).

17. As a result of the above discussion, the Committee agreed to request advice from the CCNFSDU as to whether the condition for 10% of the NRV for comparative claims for micronutrients (section 6.3 in the Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims) is still in line with current evidence based guidance on micronutrients, particularly in light of the work being undertaken on NRV.

Trans fatty acids (TFAs)⁶

18. The Committee noted that the working group generally supported establishing a “free” claim for TFAs and not to pursue consideration of claims for low in trans fatty acids because the Global Strategy recommends their virtual elimination. One delegation proposed to establish two categories of foods for the purpose of defining the proposed claim: oils and fats, oil and fat emulsion (water in oil or oil in water) and ready to eat or other foods.

19. The Committee agreed to ask the CCNFSDU to provide advice on the establishment of conditions for claims for “free” of TFA and to consider this question further in the light of this advice at the next session.

20. As regards the establishment of the claims per 100 g, per 100 ml or per serving, some delegations supported claims per 100 g or per 100 ml only while other delegations supported the establishment of claims per serving as these were used in several countries and well understood by consumers, and claims per serving were already established for other nutrients. Additionally it was noted that conditions per serving would help maintain consistency with the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling, which allow nutrient declaration per serving. Some delegations expressed concern about claims per serving as the serving sizes could be changed to permit a claim in countries that do not have standardized serving sizes. The Committee noted that these questions would have to be discussed by the CCNFSDU if that Committee agreed to develop conditions for these claims.

21. The Committee is invited to consider the above requests from the CCFL.

22. The Committee recalled that the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling have a footnote to the list of nutrients that should always be declared, stating that countries where the level of intake of trans-fatty acids is a public health concern should consider the declaration of trans-fatty acids in nutrition labelling as well as a definition for trans fatty acids. The Committee agreed to request that CCNFSDU consider requesting CCMAS to review method AOCS Ce 1H-05 for trans fatty acids in foods as it is only applicable to certain types of fats and oils. The method AOAC 996.06 has already been recognized as a Type II method for the same Guidelines for the measurement of saturated fatty acids. It may be more pertinent to also consider this as a Type II method for trans fatty acids for the purposes of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling and potentially for the Guidelines on Nutrition and Health Claims.

23. These items will be considered under Agenda Item 10.

⁴ REP12/FA para. 45

⁵ REP12/FL paras 26 – 27

⁶ REP12/FL paras 33 – 36

D. OTHER MATTERS**12TH SESSION OF THE FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND SOUTH WEST PACIFIC****Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and Micronutrient Deficiencies in the CCNASWP Region⁷**

24. The Coordinating Committee noted the importance of NCDs and VMDs in the region. With regard to the recommendations included in the document, discussions focused on what CCNASWP could do to address diet-related NCDs and VMDs in the region, particularly in relation to the work of the Codex Committees on Food Labelling (CCFL) and on Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU).

⁷ REP13/NASWP paras 149 – 150