

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 4.1

CX/CAC 25/48/3 Add.1

October 2025

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-eighth Session

FAO headquarters

Rome, Italy

10-14 November 2025

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS SUBMITTED BY THE 23RD SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR ADOPTION BY THE 48TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

BACKGROUND

1. This document compiles the comments on the standards and related texts submitted to CAC48 for final adoption, as indicated in the relevant circular letters (CL 2025/24-CAC, CL 2025/25-CAC). The comments include those received through the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS)¹, or via email by the time this document was issued.
2. The comments in response to CL 2025/24-CAC is shown in Appendix I and the comments in response to CL 2025/25-CAC is shown in Appendix II.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON APPENDICES I AND II

3. The comments received are presented in a table format, with two columns as follows:
 - **First column** – Presents the comments with the rationale.
 - **Second column** – Presents the provider of the comments (name of Member or Observer).

¹ OCS is an online tool that enables Codex Contact Points to submit comments on draft texts in a standardised way, thus providing more transparency and better management of comments on different Codex texts as requested through Circular Letters. Since its launching at CAC39 (2016), the OCS has been used for different Codex Committees.

Appendix I

COMMENTS IN REPLY TO CL 2025/24-CAC

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AT STEP 8 ON THE DRAFT STANDARD FOR FRESH DATES

Submitted by

*Argentina, Cuba, Egypt, European Union, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic republic of),
Iraq, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United States of America (USA)*

COMMENT	MEMBER / OBSERVER															
Argentina presta conformidad para que la norma sea adoptada.	Argentina															
Cuba agradece la oportunidad de comentar sobre la consulta de la carta circular CL 2025/24-CAC sobre el Proyecto de Norma para los dátiles frescos y considera que el documento está listo para su aprobación en la 48 CAC.	Cuba															
Egypt expresses its appreciation for the diligent work reflected in this document and confirms that the standard is ready for adoption	Egypt															
The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) reiterate their reservation to the provision allowing a 1% tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class. The EUMS recall that CAC41 confirmed that the provision for decay in “Extra” class is optional; and depending on the nature of the produce, the tolerance may not be applicable or necessary. The EUMS maintain their view that a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class is not in conformance with the requirements for “Extra” Class, which is a special status granted to products of exceptionally high quality. “Extra” Class produce requires more careful production, packing, transportation as well as minimal delays in shipment and dispatch to preserve the high quality of the produce with consequent higher production and shipping costs; and investments in these efforts should be rewarded. The EUMS continue to apply a zero tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class of berry fruits as provided in the UNECE standard.	European Union															
Indonesia supports the adoption of the draft Standard for fresh dates at Step 8.	Indonesia															
"Considering the conducted review, the current draft standard is not yet ready for final approval. Due to the presence of amendable points and the need for further clarification in certain sections, it does not currently meet the necessary conditions to advance to the subsequent stages of standard development. It is therefore recommended that the proposed amendments be thoroughly examined." 1- The standard document for fresh dates has been thoroughly reviewed. Overall, significant revisions have been made to improve the content. However, it is noted that the allowable limits for pest damage in the table appear to be set excessively high. Considering that fresh dates primarily encounter rapid textural changes and microbial challenges rather than significant pest-related issues, and taking into account other consumption-related factors, a reduction in the permitted pest damage limits is recommended. Table: Quality tolerances of fresh dates <table><tr><th>S. No.</th><th>Quality tolerance</th><th colspan="3">Tolerances allowed percentage of defective produce by count or weight (not more than)</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Quality tolerance produce by count or weight</th><th>ExtraClass</th><th>Class I</th><th>Class II*</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Damage by pest</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr></table> 2- Furthermore, it is imperative to underscore the necessity of maintaining the cold chain throughout the transportation and storage processes. This requirement stems from the fact that fresh dates-which, under the relevant standard definitions, encompass the Kharak and Rotab stages-are exceedingly sensitive to temperature variations. Failure to adhere to	S. No.	Quality tolerance	Tolerances allowed percentage of defective produce by count or weight (not more than)				Quality tolerance produce by count or weight	ExtraClass	Class I	Class II*		Damage by pest	1	3	5	Iran (Islamic republic of)
S. No.	Quality tolerance	Tolerances allowed percentage of defective produce by count or weight (not more than)														
	Quality tolerance produce by count or weight	ExtraClass	Class I	Class II*												
	Damage by pest	1	3	5												

COMMENT	MEMBER / OBSERVER
appropriate temperature controls may adversely affect the product's quality and safety.	
Draft standard is ready for adoption	Iraq
La Coordinación Nacional de la Comisión Técnica de Perú no efectuará comentario y agradece el trabajo realizado.	Peru
Saudi Arabia supports the adoption of the proposed draft standard for fresh dates.	Saudi Arabia
Thailand has no objection to the adoption of Draft Standard for Fresh Dates at Step 8 and agreed with the recommendation of CCEXEC88, which considered that it is not yet the appropriate time to undertake a review Annex B.of General Standard For Dried Fruits (CXS 360-2020)	Thailand
The United States supports adoption of the Standard for fresh dates at step 8.	USA

APPENDIX II

COMMENTS IN REPLY TO CL 2025/25-CAC
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AT STEP 5/8 ON THE
PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR FRESH CURRY LEAVES

Submitted by
Argentina, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Paraguay,
Peru, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United States of America (USA)

COMMENT	MEMBER / OBSERVER
Ítem 3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY, 3.1 Minimum requirements, The bullet points should be arranged according to the General Standards Model in order to align with it.: “In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the fresh curry leaves must display the following characteristics, deviations from which shall be observed by the naked eye or corrected 20/20 vision¹ when appropriate: intact, with stem or/ stalk attached; sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded; clean, free of visible foreign matter; practically free from pests and damage caused by pests. free of abnormal external moisture excluding condensation following removal from cold storage - free of any foreign smell and/or taste fresh in appearance properly drained, damp but not excessively wet if washed; The paragraph refers to “fresh dates” instead of “fresh leaves curry.” 7.2.1. Origin of Produce Country of origin³ and, optionally, district where grown, or the national, regional or local place name. In the case of a mixture of distinctly different species and/or varieties of fresh leaves curry of different origins, the indication of each country of origin shall appear next to the name of the species and/or variety concerned.	Argentina
Cuba agradece por poder dar comentarios sobre el Documento de referencia y apoya que el Proyecto de norma para las hojas frescas de curry se adopte en la 48 CAC	Cuba
Egypt appreciates the work done in the document and agrees with adoption of it	Egypt
In principle, Indonesia has no objection to the adoption of the proposed draft standard for fresh curry leaves at Step 5/8. However, Indonesia wishes to express a concern regarding the inclusion of the parameter "slight lack of freshness" as a quality tolerance for Class II products, as stipulated in Section 5.1. Indonesia is of the view that this parameter would be difficult to measure objectively and is prone to subjective interpretation, particularly as there is no clear definition for the term "slight lack" either within this draft standard or in the CCFFV Information Document concerning the Definition of Terms for Application in the Layout for Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Furthermore, if such a parameter is deemed necessary to differentiate product classes based on quality tolerances, the question arises as to why this freshness-related parameter is exclusively applied to Class II and is absent from the Extra Class and Class I categories.	Indonesia

COMMENT	MEMBER / OBSERVER
Therefore, Indonesia proposes that this parameter be removed from Section 5.1 for Class II prior to the adoption of the standard at Step 5/8 by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).	
proposed standard is ready for adoption at step 5/8	Iraq
Paraguay no tiene observaciones a la Norma de hojas frescas de curry, por tanto apoya su adopción.	Paraguay
La Coordinación Nacional de la Comisión Técnica de Perú no efectuará comentario y agradece el trabajo realizado.	Peru
Saudi Arabia supports the adoption of the proposed draft standard for fresh curry leaves.	Saudi Arabia
Thailand has no objection to the adoption of Draft Standard for Fresh Curry Leaves at Step 5/8 and we were noted that the CCFL had not yet considered and endorsed the labelling provisions in the draft standard for Fresh Curry Leaves.	Thailand
The United States supports adoption of the draft standard for fresh curry leaves at step 5/8 pending fulfilment of the endorsement requirements by CCFL of the food labelling provisions.	USA