

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
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Agenda Item 6

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-Fifth Session

REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP ON THE INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM (INS)

(Prepared by the In-Session Working Group (IWG) Chair)

The in-session Working Group (IWG) on the INS was chaired by Belgium (Dr. Christine Vinkx) with rapporteur provided by the EU (Dr. Catherine Evrevin).

The Chair warmly welcomed the delegates to the IWGs and thanked the co-chair and all those delegations who had participated in the INS electronic Working Group (EWG) since the last session of the Committee.

The Chair of the IWG informed the group that the report of the EWG, was available as document CX/FA 25/55/9, and contained proposed changes to the current INS (Codex Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives, CAC/GL 36-1989, amended 2024).

Comments on the report of the EWG were compiled in documents CX/FA 24/55/9 Add. 1 and FA55/CRD15.

The following Members and Observers participated: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States of America, AIDGUM, CCC, COFALEC, EFEMA, EU Specialty Food Ingredients, FIA, FoodDrinkEurope, GFI, IACM, ICBA, ICGA, IDF/FIL, IFAC, ILSI, ISA, ISDI, NATCOL, OIV.

CCFA55 agreed to refer to the INS IWG established by CCFA55 to consider:

- (i) the report of the EWG;
- (ii) the appropriate INS number for Carbomer (CX/FA 25/55/2, para 1.ii); and
- (iii) the appropriate INS number for nisin A resulting from the 99th JECFA meeting (CX/FA 25/55/3).

The chair of the IWG presented the work of EWG. There was a consensus supporting the recommendations of the EWG.

1. Recommendations from the IWG on INS

The IWG agreed for the additions and deletions presented in the annex to CX/FA 24/55/9 and the modification of the Explanatory Notes on the layout of the INS (Section 1) to clarify the use of parentheses in the name of an additive.

Recommendation 1

1. The WG recommends that the CCFA55 forward for adoption by CAC48 the modifications to Sections 3 and 4 of the *Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989) as shown in the Annex Part 1.A.
2. The WG recommends that the CCFA55 modify the explanatory Notes on the layout of the INS (Section 1) of the *Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989) to clarify the use of parentheses in the name as shown in the Annex Part 2.
3. The WG recommends the update of the Information document/table on INS for deleted and re-used numbers with the deletion of INS 231 and INS 232.

Considering that national authorisations were identified for azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) the recommendation of the EWG not to delete it from the INS at this moment was supported, when possible in the future it would be appropriate to delete it from CXG36-1989 to avoid confusion among member countries.

Recommendation 2

The WG recommends adding a point on deletion of azodicarbonamide (INS 927a) again in the mandate of the EWG on INS in a few years' time, e.g. in 2030, to investigate whether it still needs to remain included in the INS because of national authorisation(s).

When considering the deletion of ortho-phenylphenol from the INS, the recommendation of the EWG included in CX/FA 25/55/9 to find out why the substance is listed as 2-phenylphenol in the list of flavourings in the *List of Codex specifications for food additives* (CXA 6-2023) and to decide whether this entry needs to be deleted was discussed in the IWG.

As no information was provided during the IWG to confirm its use as a flavouring, it was suggested that CCFA consider the deletion of the substance from the *List of Codex specifications for food additives* (CXA 6-2023).

Recommendation 3

The WG recommends CCFA55 to consider the deletion of 2-phenylphenol from the list of flavourings in the List of Codex specifications for food additives (CXA 6-2023).

2. Carbomer

CAC47(2024) referred carbomer to CCFA55 for reconsideration of the appropriate number for the INS.

The INS number 1210 cannot be used for carbomer, as it is the INS number for sodium polyacrylate (stabilizer). Carbomer is a crosslinked polyacrylic acid polymer.

The chair made a proposal to assign the INS number 1211 to Carbomer, as this number is not yet in the INS. As 1211 is not included either in the list of deleted INS numbers, there is no risk for confusion.

One member commented on the name noting that Carbomer is a trade name, and it does actually have a systematic name. There was a concern with using a trade name associated with an INS number.

It was reminded that CAC47(2024) referred carbomer only for the appropriate number. There are no objections on the proposal to assign INS 1211 to carbomer. No need was identified to send it to the EWG.

Recommendation 4

The WG recommends that the CCFA55 modify Sections 3 and 4 of the *Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989) as shown in the Annex Part 1.B.

3. Consideration of the preservative nisin A

The chair of the IWG presented the situation as regards the re-evaluation of nisin at the 99th JECFA meeting specifically referring to nisin A and suggested two options for nisin A:

- Option 1: Add **INS 234(i) nisin A** (after INS 234 nisin)
- Option 2: **INS 234 nisin A** (change the name of INS 234 from 'nisin' to 'nisin A' and add INS 234 in the list of deleted and reused numbers to archive the change)

Several countries reported the existence of different nisins and it was reason to support option 1.

Members considered that it would be prudent to consider further the impact the changes in the INS.

JECFA Secretariat informed the working group that the current re-evaluation of nisin concerned nisin A. The JECFA Secretariat further clarified that the previous JECFA evaluations for nisin were for nisin A."

The chair of the IWG proposed to add the issue to the terms of reference of the EWG and proposed a recommendation to encourage Members to reply to the circular letters if they want more types of nisins in the INS.

Recommendation 5

1. The WG recommends CCFA55 to consider nisin A further in the next EWG taking into account the discussion in the IWG.

2. to encourage members to reply to the circular letter requesting proposals for change and/or addition to Section 3 of the *Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989) in case they request other types of nisin than nisin A to be discussed in the next EWG on INS.

4. Draft terms of reference for the EWG INS

There was support for the following draft terms of reference

Recommendation 6

The WG recommends CCFA55 to establish an EWG to consider:

- (i) Replies to a CL requesting proposals for change and/or addition to Section 3 of the *Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989)
- (ii) Consideration of nisin A

ANNEX**CHANGES TO THE CODEX CLASS NAMES AND THE INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR FOOD ADDITIVES, CAC/GL 36-1989, FOR ADOPTION AT STEP 5/8 BY CAC**

(Additions are shown in **bold/underlined font**. Deletions are shown in ~~**bold/strikethrough**~~.)

Part 1: Revisions to Sections 3 and 4 of CXG 36-1989**Part 1.A**

INS No.	Name of food additive	Functional class	Technological purpose
183	Jagua (genipin-glycine) blue <u>(Jagua blue)</u> ¹	Colour	<i>colour</i>
231	Ortho-phenylphenol	Preservative	preservative
232	Sodium-ortho-phenylphenol	Preservative	Preservative
<u>914</u>	<u>Oxidised polyethylene wax</u>	<u>Glazing agent</u>	<u>glazing agent, coating agent</u>

¹The parentheses used in “Jagua (genipin-glycin) blue” are no indication of a synonym. INS 183 has two INS-names: 1) “Jagua (genipin-glycine) blue”; and 2) “Jagua blue”.

Part 1.B

INS No	Name of food additive	Functional class	Technological purpose
<u>1211</u>	<u>Carbomer</u>	<u>Bulking agent</u>	<u>bulking agent</u>
		<u>Stabilizer</u>	<u>stabilizer</u>
		<u>Thickener</u>	<u>thickener</u>

Part 2: Revision to Section 1 of CXG 36-1989**1. INTRODUCTION****EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE LAYOUT OF THE INS**

The name of the food additive is sometimes followed by an additional name in parentheses. The parenthetical name is optional, and may be used, when necessary, to indicate another commonly associated name or synonym for the additive, for example INS 235 Natamycin (Pimaricin). Not all synonyms are listed. **A footnote can be used to clarify the use of parentheses**. The name of an additive is sometimes, after a comma, followed by a description of the additive, for example INS 161h(i) Zeaxanthin, synthetic.