

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 6

FA56/CRD24
Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-sixth Session

PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION TO THE CLASS NAMES AND THE INTERNATIONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR FOOD ADDITIVES (CXG 36-1989)

(Comments of Cabo Verde, Kenya, Philippines, Republic of Korea)

Cabo Verde

POSITION OR COMMENT

Cabo Verde supports the proposed revisions to the International Numbering System (INS) as outlined in document CX/FA 26/56/9. We endorse the inclusion of new additives and the updates to functional classes, emphasizing the importance of aligning the INS with the most recent safety evaluations.

RATIONALE

The continuous update of the INS is a critical tool for ensuring transparency and protecting the consumer's right to information. For Cabo Verde, as a country that relies significantly on food imports, a clear and harmonized numbering system is vital for efficient labeling verification and market surveillance. Ensuring that the INS reflects the latest JECFA evaluations allows our regulatory authorities to maintain robust official controls over the safety of imported products.

Kenya

Comment: Kenya supports the proposed revisions to the INS list, emphasizing the importance of harmonization, technological justification, and consumer clarity. Kenya agrees with the inclusion of new additives, including argon, helium, oxygen, monk fruit extract, sweet osmanthus ear glycolipids, sodium hydrosulphite, and the functional class "colour" for microcrystalline cellulose, subject to exposure assessment and consumer perception considerations. Regarding nisin, Kenya prefers Option 2, establishing a parent entry with sub-entries for specific variants, as this approach is label-friendly, future-proof, consistent with JECFA specifications, and ensures clarity and flexibility. Kenya also supports the inclusion of INS 460 in the EWG discussions.

Philippines

Position:

The Philippines supports the proposed changes by the EWG, chaired by Belgium, to CXG 36-1989, as reflected in the Annex of CX/FA 26/56/9. This includes the addition of the following food additives and their corresponding functional classes and technological purposes: sodium hydrosulphite, argon, helium, oxygen, monk fruit extract, and the inclusion of the functional class and technological purpose "colour" for microcrystalline cellulose (cellulose gel).

In addition, the Philippines supports Option 2 for nisin, which proposes a separate entry for Nisin A as INS 234(i), consistent with the EWG proposal.

Reason:

The additives listed in the Annex are established for use consistent with their proposed functional classes and technological purposes and have been approved by various countries based on scientific assessments.

Establishing a parent category for *Nisin* is a proactive approach to accommodate potential future inclusion of additional variants, such as Nisin Z, pending submission for safety evaluation by JECFA, alongside Nisin A, which are structurally distinct as noted in the EFSA assessment. This framework also allows clear identification of the specific variant (e.g. Nisin A) in the listing and labeling.

References:

European Food Safety Authority AFC Panel. (2006). Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Food Additives, Flavourings, Processing Aids and Materials in Contact with Food (AFC) related to the use of nisin (E 234) as a food additive. EFSA Journal, 314, 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2006.314>

Republic of Korea

1. The Republic of Korea supports the addition of oxygen (INS 948).
2. The Republic of Korea supports 'option 2' for nisin, which provides for the addition of nisin A as INS 234(i).