



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEx COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-sixth Session

REPORT OF THE UPDATE ON THE MAPPING OF FOOD CATEGORIES IN THE GSFA TO THE FOODEx2 DATABASE

(Submitted by Japan, Australia, Canada and the European Union)

1. The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), in its conclusions to its 89th meeting, requested additional information in order to complete the exposure assessment for sucrose esters of fatty acids (INS 473) and sucrose oligoesters, type I and type II (INS 473a). Specifically, JECFA requested that the foods be classified according to the FoodEx2 classification system, and that the data be presented in tabular format by mapping the foods recorded in the FoodEx2 to those foods in the GSFA food categories to aid in the use of both the Chronic Individual Food Consumption database - Summary statistics (CIFOcOss)¹ and the Global Individual Food consumption data Tool (GIFT)² databases. The JECFA also noted that this exercise can improve mapping consistency for all future meetings.³
2. As part of the discussions during the in-session working group on the JECFA Priority List at CCFA52(2021), Japan, as the proponent of the original request for the evaluation of INS 473 and 473a, had agreed to conduct a mapping exercise for these additives, but also understood that the mapping exercise would be more broadly applicable to all food additives. To ensure that a complete mapping between the GSFA and the FoodEx2 could be produced that would be suitable for future exposure assessments conducted by JECFA, the working group Chair suggested that the development of such a mapping should undergo greater scrutiny by the Committee.⁴
3. As a result of the discussion, CCFA52 endorsed new work to develop a discussion paper with the purpose of developing a complete mapping exercise between the food categories of the GSFA and the FoodEx2 database and agreed to a discussion paper to be co-authored by Canada, Australia and Japan at that time.⁵
4. CCFA53(2023) discussed the project document, the JECFA Secretariat noted that the exercise was complicated and therefore important to finish the preliminary mapping initiated by Canada on a limited number of GSFA Food Categories, to learn as much as possible about the mapping process. JECFA also mentioned it would be willing to host the mapping document. CCFA53 agreed that when the initial mapping had been tested by JECFA, it would support JECFA in hosting the mapping and any additional documentation.⁶ CCFA53 supported that the initial full mapping be undertaken by Japan based on Japan's previous willingness to undertake this work for SUCROSE ESTERS.⁷
5. The GSFA has a food classification system arranged in a hierarchy that is comprised of 16 "parent" food categories, further divided into subcategories, to a maximum of three further subdivisions (up to a total of four

¹ CIFOcOss accessed on WHO Food Safety Collaborative Platform (FOSCOLLAB):

<https://apps.who.int/foscollab/Download/DownloadConso>, accessed October 2025.

² FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool (GIFT): methodological document:

<https://www.fao.org/3/cb8809en/cb8809en.pdf>, accessed October 2025.

³ FAO/WHO. 2020. Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives: Eighty-ninth meeting (Safety evaluation of certain food additives), Virtual meeting, 1-12 June 2020, Summary and Conclusions.

<https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/cb73a490-36bf-4702-afec-d85ae2122d4e/content>, accessed October 2025.

⁴ [CCFA52 CRD6](#) Recommendation 6

⁵ [REP21/FA](#) paragraph 226, 227(iii)

⁶ REP23/FA paragraph 157

⁷ CCFA53 CRD35 Recommendation 6

levels), as well as descriptive notes attached to food additives within these Food Categories and subdivisions, some of which describe specific food within the subdivisions to which food additive provisions apply. The FoodEx2 food category system also has a hierarchical food classification. However, it is much more detailed, currently including over 4,400 food terms categorized into up to seven specific subdivision levels, with 21 groups at the top/parent level.

6. In preparing the initial full mapping agreed to at CCFA53, Japan took into account advice from Canada, Australia and the EU and referred to a publication mapping FoodEx2 to European food categories similar to those in the GSFA⁸. This published mapping assigns all FoodEx2 terms to the food categories in the European food classification system on a one-to-one basis.

7. Initially, we also aimed at a one-to-one mapping between GSFA food classifications and FoodEx2. However, during this process, it became clear that FoodEx2 terms clearly span multiple GSFA food categories and could not be narrowed down to a single term, so it was decided to allow some FoodEx2 terms to be assigned to multiple GSFA food categories. We also assigned "NA" to some FoodEx2 terms deemed unimportant or obscure for the exposure assessments of food additives.

8. The resulting sheet was referred as "MasterFile" (see the [Excel document](#), tab 4). The entire "MasterFile" consists of 21 Excel spreadsheets, corresponding to the 21 top-level groups in FoodEx2. For this CRD, the specific group "Grains and grain-based products (A000J)" was excerpted from the 21 groups as an example (see the [Excel document](#), tab 4).

9. Furthermore, we arranged this "MasterFile" to create the following four appendices in the [Excel document](#) to allow users to try different analyses.

Appendix1: This is the integrated one sheet of 21 sheets in the master file. (see the [Excel document](#), tab 5)

Appendix2: This file is made from Appendix1, with organized by Core Terms based on the discussion in CCFA53.⁹ It contains 2 sheets.

- **Sheet "with empty cells":** Empty cells are left in order to be easily compared with Appendix1. (see the [Excel document](#), tab 6)
- **Sheet "without empty cells":** Empty cells are removed. (see the [Excel document](#), tab 7)

Appendix3: This file is sorted by the Food codes of the FoodEx2. (see the [Excel document](#), tab 8)

Appendix4: This file includes parts in Appendix3 where multiple codes. (see the [Excel document](#), tab 9)

10. We are pleased that files we submitted to JECFA secretariat in January 2025 were evaluated at the 100th JECFA meeting¹⁰ and that favorable conclusions were reported. The summary report of the 100th JECFA meeting stated that the initial mappings were used for the dietary exposure assessment for adipic acid (INS No. 355) and dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate (INS No. 480), however, did not mention whether there would be any changes to the datasets requested in future JECFA "Call for data".

11. We would welcome information from JECFA if any changes of datasets are expected. We also welcome the recommendation in the conclusion that the mapping should be publicly available to promote its consistent application internationally.

⁸ Nikolic, M., Ioannidou, S., Tard, A., & Arcella, D. (2021). Mapping of FoodEx2 Exposure Hierarchy with the food categories of Annex II (part D) of Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 on food additives. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4461576>

⁹ CCFA53 CX/FA 23/53/15 Recommendation 2

¹⁰ https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/food-safety/jecfa/summary-and-conclusions/jecfa-100-summary-report-copy_v1.pdf?sfvrsn=3ef0c6a7_4&download=true