

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-sixth Session

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

(Comments of European Union, Kenya and Rwanda)

European Union

The European Union (EU) would like to submit the following comments:

Recommendations

to consider

CX/FA 26/56/2

- A. the replies from CCMAS44 regarding the NPC for nitrate and nitrite in specific food matrices, as well as other relevant information as outlined in paragraph 15**

The EU welcomes the feedback of CCMAS on the CCFA request related to criteria for the detection of nitrate and nitrite ions in a variety of food matrices, information on available methods for detection that met the established criteria and information whether the methods detect both ions and if so separately or only in combination.

The EU expects that the feedback provided by CCMAS4 will allow CCFA to resume the work on the food additive provisions for nitrate and nitrite additives and that those provisions will be considered at one of the next Committee's meetings.

- B. the replies from CCNE12 regarding the appropriate FC for mixed zaatar as outlined in paragraph 22**

The EU acknowledges the feedback provided by CCNE. The EU agrees with the suitability of FC 12.2.2 for products conforming to CXS 341R-2020.

- C. the replies from CCASIA23 regarding the use of food additives and appropriate GSFA food categories for commodities conforming to standards established by CCASIA as outlined in paragraphs 16 – 20**

The EU appreciates the feedback provided by CCASIA.

Carotenoid-related food additives in the *Regional standard for non-fermented soybean products (Asia) (CXS 322R-2015)*

The EU observes that the standard CXS 322R-2015 permits the use of colours only in products falling in the GSFA category 06.8.1 and with restrictions, i.e. no food additives are permitted for "plain soybean beverage" in food category 06.8.1, while colours listed in Table 1 and Table 2 in the GSFA category 06.8.1 (and Table 3 colours) are permitted for use in "composite/flavoured soybean beverages" and "soybean-based beverages".

In order to take the restrictions into account, the EU suggests adding Note 643 to the provisions for carotenal, beta-apo-8'-; carotenes, beta-; and carotenes, beta-, vegetable.

Paprika extract (INS 160c(ii)) in the *Regional standard for non-fermented soybean products (Asia)* (CXS 322R-2015)

Similarly to carotenoid-related food additives, the use of paprika extract in the GSFA category 06.8.1 for products conforming to CXS 322R-2015 should be restricted to “composite/flavoured soybean beverages” and “soybean-based beverages”.

Finally, the EU observes the lack of consistency of the use of Note 127 in the provisions in the GSFA category 06.8.1 (and also in 14.1.4), which may need to be addressed. The EU observes that Note 127 is not mentioned in CX/FA 26/56/2 in relation to paprika extract while it is suggested for carotenal, beta-apo-8'-; carotenes, beta-; and carotenes, beta-, vegetable.

D. the corrections suggested by the Codex Secretariat outlined in paragraph 27

The EU supports the correction to the Note 667 as suggested by the Codex Secretariat.

CX/FA 26/56/2 Add.1

the replies from CCFO29

The EU takes note of the feedback provided by CCFO29.

The EU observes that it follows from section 1.2 of the GSFA Preamble that Codex commodity committees have the responsibility and expertise to appraise and justify the technological need for the use of additives in foods subject to a commodity standard.

The EU is of the view that CCFO should provide more conclusive feedback as regards the technological need for the use of lauric alginate ethyl ester (INS 243) as a preservative in products conforming to the *Standard for fat spreads and blended spreads* (CXS 256-1999). In that respect it is desirable that the matter is referred back to CCFO for further consideration.

Kenya

Agenda item 2: Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other subsidiary bodies (CX/FA 26/56/2)

Matters for information

Comment: Kenya takes note of the matters referred to CCFA by CAC48, CCEXEC89 and its subsidiary bodies.

Matters for action

Issue: The work of CCMAS44 on the development of numeric performance criteria (NPC) for nitrate and nitrite and the classification of mixed zaatar under GSFA Food Category 12.2.2 (Seasonings and Condiments)

Comment: Kenya supports the work of CCMAS44 on the development of numeric performance criteria (NPC) for nitrate and nitrite in specified food matrices. Kenya supports the classification of mixed zaatar under GSFA Food Category 12.2.2 (Seasonings and Condiments)

Rationale: This accurately reflects the nature and intended use of the product. This alignment will improve coherence between commodity standards and the GSFA, thereby enhancing clarity in the application of food additive provisions and supporting consistent regulatory implementation.

Issue: Replies from CCASIA23 regarding the use of food additives and appropriate GSFA food categories for commodities conforming to standards established by CCASIA as outlined in paragraphs 16 – 20

Comment: Kenya agrees to the responses from CCASIA23. The deletion of synthetic riboflavin (INS 101(i)) from fermented soybean paste is appropriate where its technological justification is not sufficiently demonstrated, while allowing other riboflavins maintains flexibility where justified and safe.

Kenya also supports the inclusion of carotenoid-related additives in non-fermented soybean products at the proposed levels, noting that these have been technically justified and are consistent with their function as colour additives, provided alignment with GSFA provisions and JECFA safety evaluations is maintained

Justification: . The classification of liver products under the proposed GSFA food categories is also supported, as it enhances consistency and ensures correct application of additive provisions.

Issue: Use of paprika extract (INS 160c(ii)) in soybean beverages, including proposed maximum level and alignment with GSFA food categories.

Comment: Kenya has no objection for use of paprika extract (INS 160c(ii)) for colour adjustment in soybean beverages, particularly fruit-flavoured products. However, Kenya seeks clarification on whether the technological justification for the use of colour was agreed to by CCASIA.

Issue : Corrections suggested by the Codex Secretariat outlined in paragraph 27

Comment: Kenya agrees with the correction to Note 667 by deleting the words “as bixin,” as their inclusion is technically incorrect and inconsistent with the identity of tartrazine (INS 102).

Agenda item 2.1: Matters Referred to by the 29th Session of the Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO29) - CX/FA 26/56/2 Add.1

Issue: Technological justification for the use of lauric arginate ethyl ester (INS 243) as a preservative in products conforming to the Standard for fat spreads and blended spreads (CXS 256-1999)

Comment: Kenya does not support the endorsement of lauric arginate ethyl ester (INS 243) as a preservative in products conforming to the Standard for fat spreads and blended spreads (CXS 256-1999)

Justification: Based on CCFO29 report there was no consensus on the technological use of the additive as procedurally required. Kenya recommends that the matter be referred to CCFO for further discussions and agreement.

Agenda item 2.2: The progress report on restricting the GSFA database: approach for implementing the display of Table Three Notes (CX/FA 26/56/2 Add.2)

Comment: Kenya supports the restructuring of the GSFA database and the proposed formats, endorses the phased implementation of Table 3 Notes with interim listings, and calls for continued collaboration and clarification on functional classes. This approach ensures feasibility, regulatory clarity, consumer protection, and alignment with Codex standards.

Kenya further seeks clarification regarding the change of the table title from “*Specific allowance in the following commodity standards*” to “*Acceptable in foods conforming to the following commodity standards*”. The change appears to only limit use of food additives to only the product standards listed as opposed to earlier text that indicated exceptions in specific commodity standards.

Rwanda

Rwanda takes note of the Matters Referred by the 48th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48) and the 89th session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC89) and the matters arising from other subsidiary bodies.