

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 9

FA56/CRD17
Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-sixth Session

DRAFT WORKING PRACTICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GSFA FOOD ADDITIVE PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO COMMODITY STANDARDS AND RELATED TEMPLATES

(Comments of European Union, Rwanda and Uganda)

European Union

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) welcome and support the proposed working practices.

These working practices are in line with the current Codex procedures, including regarding the respective responsibilities of Commodity committees and CCFA.

If implemented, these working practices will lead to a clear and more efficient process for the development of provisions for additives in commodity standards and the GSFA. They will also ensure consistency between commodity standards and the GSFA.

Rwanda

Rwanda appreciates the work and document prepared by China as author, and Australia, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, the European Union, Japan and the United States of America as co-authors.

Uganda

Uganda appreciates the efforts of China, Australia, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, the European Union, Japan and the United States of America in preparation of the paper. Since 2010, the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) has worked to align food additive provisions between the; General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA, CXS 192-1995), and Codex commodity standards.

The overarching goal is to make the GSFA the single authoritative reference for food additives and eliminate inconsistencies (divergence). CCFA established key objectives:

- Strengthen GSFA as the central reference.
- Minimize additive provisions in commodity standards.
- Ensure all new provisions from commodity/regional committees are incorporated into GSFA.

An Electronic Working Group (EWG) was created to: Assess whether Codex procedures are sufficient to prevent divergence and develop improved working practices and guidance.

Countries (led by China with multiple co-authors) were tasked to: develop standardized working procedures for endorsement and incorporation of provisions into GSFA, create a communication and engagement plan and clarify how commodity committees interact with CCFA.

Two alternative working approaches proposed to manage alignment depending on expertise available to development of: Templates/questionnaires to ensure complete and consistent data submission and a communication plan to improve coordination across committees. Use of existing Codex mechanisms such as; CCFA expert participation in commodity committees, commenting via Circular Letters and Standardized reporting

templates, Encourage collaboration between CCFA and commodity/regional committee delegates.

Ensure GSFA is: User-friendly, accessible to non-experts and Clear for both industry and consumers

Recommendations for CCFA56:

1. Adopt stand-alone working practices to prevent divergence and publish them
2. Replace existing guidelines with the new working practices
3. Review organizational arrangements for alignment work
4. Implement a communication and engagement plan for rollout and ongoing coordination
5. Conduct a review after 3–5 years to assess effectiveness

Uganda comments/ position

Uganda supports alignment of all the commodity standards giving reference to the GSFA in their drafting to avoid repetition and misalignment of the food additives provisions specified therein.