

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4a

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-sixth Session

Submitted by the Regional Coordinator of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE) on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Agenda item 4a: Endorsement and/or revision of maximum levels for food additives and processing aids in Codex standards

Background

Following the Twelfth Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE), held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, from 28 September to 2 October 2025, the Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that it had not had the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed list of food additives in the regional standard for Doogh (Near East / CXS 332R-2018). The delegation of Iran further expressed its intention to submit proposals for potential amendments to this list.

To address this issue, which was raised following the adoption of provisions agreed at CCNE12, and in accordance with Codex procedures, the Chair of CCNE recommended to:

1. Proceed with the recommendation of CCNE12 (REP25/NE, Paragraph 30), and forward the additive provisions associated with the Standard on Doogh (CXS 332R-2018) to the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) for consideration at its next session.
2. Avail the Islamic Republic of Iran with the opportunity to submit its comments or proposed amendments to the list of additives prior to or during the CCFA56 session.
3. And, as required, the matter could be further discussed during CCNE13, and re-submitted to the consideration of CAC, as may be relevant.

This approach was further discussed and received consensus from the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as members and observers who attended an informal coordination meeting of CCNE convened for this purpose prior to CCEXEC89.

Proposed Amendments by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iran indicates that, in line with the definition and nature of Doogh as a fermented milk-based product, the use of certain additives, particularly colours and preservatives, may not be justified. Specifically, Iran highlights that Doogh is traditionally characterized by its natural composition and acidity, which inherently limits microbial growth, thereby reducing the need for preservatives. Furthermore, it emphasizes that the addition of colours is not consistent with the product's identity, especially given the availability of natural flavouring ingredients as defined in the standard. On this basis, Iran proposes to review and amend the current provisions accordingly.

	Doogh (plain, not heat treated)	Doogh Flavoured not heat treated	Doogh (plain, heat treated)	Doogh Flavoured heat treated
Food category of the <i>General standard for food additives</i>	01.2.1.1	1.1.4 (Drinks based on fermented milks)	01.2.1.2	1.1.4 (Drinks based on fermented milks)
Acidity regulators:	-	×	×	×
Carbonating agents:	Xb	Xb	Xb	Xb

Colours:	-	X	-	X
Emulsifiers:	-	X	-	X
Flavour enhancers:	-	X	-	X
Packaging gases:	X	X	X	X
Preservatives:	-	-	-	X
Stabilizers:	Xa	X	X	X
Sweeteners:	-	X	-	X
Thickeners:	Xa	X	X	X

^a ~~Use is restricted to reconstitution and recombination and if permitted by national legislation in the country of sale to the final consumer.~~

^b Use of carbonating agents is technologically justified in drinks based on fermented milk only.

^e ~~The use of sweeteners is limited to milk and milk derivatives based products energy reduced or with no added sugar.~~

X The use of additives belonging to the class is technologically justified. In the case of flavoured products, the additives are technologically justified in the dairy portion.

– The use of additives belonging to the class is not technologically justified.