

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 6

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OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES (CX/CAC 24/47/17)

(Comments of Benin, Cabo Verde, India, South Africa, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, East African Community (EAC))

Benin

(i) Proposition d'amendement de la Norme générale pour les jus et nectars de fruits (CXS 247-2005)

Contexte :

La CAC46 (2023) a convenu de créer un groupe de travail électronique (GTE) sous l'égide de la CAC, présidé par le Brésil, pour examiner une proposition d'amendement de la Norme générale pour les jus et nectars de fruits (CXS 247-2005) concernant le niveau Brix pour le jus de raisin de *Vitis labrusca* et ses hybrides, avec une proposition visant à présenter la disposition relative au niveau Brix pour le jus de raisin de *Vitis labrusca* et ses hybrides sur la base de la même approche qui a déjà été utilisée dans la même norme pour d'autres jus et nectars de fruits, à savoir ceux de pomme, d'ananas et d'orange.

Le minimum actuel de solides solubles établi pour le jus de raisin reconstitué (16 °Brix) exclut jusqu'à 45 % du jus produit à partir de *Vitis labrusca* L. cultivé dans la principale région productrice brésilienne.

L'objectif de l'amendement proposé est d'améliorer la précision de la norme CXS 247-2005 et de refléter correctement le niveau Brix minimum pour le jus de raisin reconstitué élaboré avec *V. labrusca* et ses hybrides. Des données supplémentaires pour 2023 et 2024 indiquant une grande variation ont été fournies.

Deux membres (États-Unis et UE) et certains observateurs ont constamment exprimé des inquiétudes concernant l'amendement proposé, soulevant des questions concernant la représentativité des données soumises et le risque potentiel de falsification/fraude alimentaire, le risque potentiel accru de falsification du jus de raisin reconstitué par dilution

Position :

La République du Bénin soutient l'adoption de l'amendement proposé au niveau Brix du jus de raisin de *Vitis labrusca* et de ses hybrides dans la Norme générale pour les jus et nectars de fruits (CXS 247- 2005).

Justification :

Les discussions au sein du groupe de travail électronique ont épuisé les questions soulevées par certains membres. La disposition visant à abaisser le Brix ne présente pas de risque de falsification, car il existe des méthodes d'analyse permettant de déterminer l'eau ajoutée dans le jus de raisin. La proposition facilite le commerce et est conforme à la valeur fondamentale du Codex, à savoir l'inclusivité.

Cabo Verde

(i) Proposed amendment of the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005)

Background:

CAC46 (2023) agreed to establish an electronic working group (EWG) under CAC, chaired by Brazil, to consider a proposal to amend the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005) with respect to the Brix level for grape juice from *Vitis labrusca* and its hybrids with a proposal to present the Brix level provision for grape juice from *Vitis labrusca* and hybrids thereof based on the same approach that has already been used in the same standard for other fruit juices and nectars, namely those from apple, pineapple, and orange.

The current minimum of soluble solids established for reconstituted grape juice (16 °Brix) excludes up to 45% of the juice produced from *Vitis labrusca* L. cultivated in the main Brazilian producer region.

The objective of the proposed amendment is to improve the precision of CXS 247-2005 and to correctly reflect the minimum Brix level for reconstituted grape juice elaborated with *V. labrusca* and hybrids thereof. Additional data for 2023 and 2024 indicating wide variation was provided.

Two members (USA and EU) and some Observers have consistently raised concerns on the proposed amendment raising issues regarding representativeness of the submitted data and potential for adulteration/food fraud, Potential increased risk of adulteration of reconstituted grape juice by dilution

Position:

Cabo Verde Support adoption of the proposed amendment to the brix level grape juice from *Vitis labrusca* and hybrids in the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005).

Rationale:

The discussions at the EWG exhausted the issues that were raised by some of the Members. The provision of lowering the Brix does not present potential adulteration as there are existing analytical methods to determine added water in grape juice. The proposal is trade facilitative and consistent with the Codex core value of inclusivity.

India

India appreciates the work done by the Brazil. They have proposed amendment to this standard through a separate EWG working under the CAC though the CCPFV is not active at this time. The CAC should find the way forward for developing standards when the active committee is adjourned. In CCPFV there are several standards like standards for cashew kernel; dried sweet potato and kimchee are pending.

South Africa

SA comments: South Africa support the proposal to reduce the Brix level for grapes juice from 16°Brix to the proposed 14°Brix level.

Rationale: South Africa prescribes in its legislation a minimum Brix level of 12° Brix for both grape juice “not from concentrate” (NFC) and “from concentrate” (FC). It is our view that this is a more realistic value and already provides for variances in the Brix levels of the grape varieties. The current value of 16° Brix level for grape juice in CXS 247-2005 is too high and a lower minimum Brix value (14°) for all varieties would be preferable and it will reduce the potential risk of food fraud since CXS 247-2005 does not specify the Brix levels for NFC juice.

Thailand

Issue: Proposed amendment of the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005)

In principle, Thailand does not object to the proposed amendment for the minimum Brix level of *Vitis labrusca* and hybrids thereof at 14.0 in the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005). However, it is noted that there is a need for clarification in analyzing its authenticity and preventing food fraud to avoid consumer deception and promote fair practices in the international food trade.

United Republic of Tanzania

Tanzania Position

Tanzania supports the adoption of the proposed amendment to the brix level for grape juice from *Vitis labrusca* and hybrids considering that the current brix level of 16° brix has a potential impact on trade.

East African Community (EAC)

EAC supports the adoption of the proposed amendment to the brix level for grape juice from *Vitis labrusca* and hybrids considering that the current brix level of 16° brix has a potential impact on trade.