

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

**CX/NFSDU 09/31/2
September 2009**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Thirty first Session

Robert Schuman Hall, Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, Germany

2 – 6 November 2009

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

A. GENERAL DECISIONS OF THE 32ND SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Rome, Italy, 29 June – 4 July 2009)

1. The Commission **adopted** several amendments to the Procedural Manual and also adopted 37 new or revised Codex standards or related texts elaborated by the Codex Committees and Task Forces. It also approved a number of new work proposals and proposals for discontinuation of work. A complete list of these texts and details of their consideration could be found in ALINORM 09/32/REP which is available from: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net>.

B. DECISIONS OF THE 32ND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

2. The following texts considered and adopted by the Commission have direct relation to the work of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU).

Draft Nutritional Risk Analysis Principles and Guidelines for Application to the Work of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses¹

3. The Commission agreed that the Spanish version should be corrected to ensure consistency with the English version and **adopted** the Risk Analysis Principles as proposed.

STANDARDS CONSIDERED AT STEP 8

Table of Conditions for Nutrient Contents (Part B: Provisions on Dietary Fibre) to the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997)²

4. The Commission noted the ongoing work on methods of analysis for dietary fibre in the Committee and **adopted** the Provisions on Dietary Fibre in the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims as proposed, with the understanding that the Spanish translation will be checked for consistency with the English version of the definition.

¹ ALINORM 09/32/26 Appendix IV

² ALINORM 09/32/26, Appendix II

Provisions on Gum Arabic (Gum acacia) (Section D: Advisory List of Food Additives for Special Nutrient Forms) to the Advisory Lists of Nutrient Compounds for Use in Foods for Special Dietary Uses Intended for Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 10-1997)³

5. The Commission **adopted** a proposed Gum Arabic level of 10 mg/kg as a carrier for inclusion in Section D of the Advisory Lists of Nutrient Compounds for Use in Foods for Special Dietary Uses Intended for Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 10-1997).

Proposed Draft Microbiological Criteria for Powdered Follow-up Formulae and Formulae for Special Medical Purposes for Young Children (Annex II to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children (CAC/RCP 66-2008))⁴

6. The Commission corrected the title of the publication in footnote 20 and **adopted** the Proposed Draft Microbiological Criteria for Powdered Follow-up Formulae and Formulae for Special Medical Purposes for Young Children (Annex II to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children (CAC/RCP 66-2008)) as proposed.

**C. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE (CCFH)**

Inconsistencies Arising From Amendments Made To Codex Standards and Relevant Texts⁵

7. The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) considered an inconsistency, as referred by the 30th Session of CCFH, which had been created in the section on food hygiene in the Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 08-1991). It was noted that the Guidelines contained a reference to the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children (CAC/RCP 21-1979), which had been revoked when adopting the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children. The Committee noted that the revoked Code contained end-product microbiological specifications of advisory nature for a number of products for infants and children.

8. The Committee confirmed that, when adopting the Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Powdered Formulae for Infants and Young Children, it had been agreed to revoke the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children (1979) as the Codes that had been developed by the CCFH since 1979, e.g. the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice- General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969) provided enough guidance for elaboration of products other than powdered infant formulae for infants and young children. The Committee also noted that this information had been made available to its 39th Session in CX/FH 07/39/4.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING (CCMAS)

Standard for Infant Formula and Formulae for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants⁶

9. The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) considered the methods in the above standard, taking into account the replies provided by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) to the questions from the 28th and 29th CCMAS sessions.

10. The Committee agreed to **ask** the CCNFSDU to clarify the reference to calories only in the provision and calculation of energy and to consider the establishment of the relevant conversion factors for kilojoules, and the method was endorsed as Type I. Some of the methods required for the calculation of calories were listed under the determination of total carbohydrates.

³ ALINORM 09/32/26, Appendix III

⁴ ALINORM 09/32/13, Appendix III

⁵ ALINORM 09/32/13, paras 10-11

⁶ ALINORM 09/32/23, paras 46-71

11. For Vitamin B6, the AOAC and CEN microbi assay methods were endorsed as Type III. The Committee agreed to ask the CCNFSDU whether these microbi assay methods should be retained in view of the earlier recommendation to replace them with more modern methods. As the AOAC 2004.07 and EN 14164:2008 methods are identical, they were listed together as Type II, and the other CEN method as Type III.

12. As regards the general question on the criteria for the selection of appropriate Type II methods, the Committee informed the CCNFSDU that the methods had been selected on the basis of analytical characteristics, precision, sensitivity, limit of detection, and the scope of the validation of each individual method, which had allowed to assign a Type on a consistent basis to all the methods put forward by the CCNFSDU, and that this was the general approach followed for the typing of methods. The Committee also agreed to encourage Codex committees to follow the criteria approach as an alternative to the selection of specific methods.

13. The Committee is therefore invited **to reply** the CCMAS regarding the reference to calories only in the provision and calculation of energy and to consider the establishment of the relevant conversion factors for kilojoules. The Committee is also invited to reply the question regarding the microbi assay methods of Vitamin B6 whether which should be retained or not.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING (CCFL)

Implementation of the Who Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health⁷

Proposed Draft Revision of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985) Concerning the List of Nutrients That Are Always Declared On a Voluntary or Mandatory Basis

14. The 36th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL), in consideration of the recommendations in WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, agreed to undertake new work on proposed amendments to section 3.2 of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling regarding the list of nutrients and the legibility and readability of information, and the list of nutrients that are always declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis.

15. The Committee generally agreed to the criteria used by the working group on the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy, which included: ability to address public health issues; ability to assist in informing consumers to make healthy choices and practicability and enforceability of labelling, and decided to additionally take into account cost/benefit and the linkages between global and national public health priorities.

16. The Committee agreed to retain protein, available carbohydrates and fat in the list. The Committee also agreed to add saturated fat to the list. Taking into account the information provided by the WHO, the Committee agreed to retain trans-fatty acids in square brackets. Further comments regarding inclusion of TFAs would be requested through a circular letter, which will also include information from the WHO scientific update. The Committee noted that there was consensus on the importance of the nutrient sodium/salt and that it should be included in the list but due to the diversity of views on which term to use, the Committee agreed to retain sodium/salt in square brackets and to establish an electronic working group to Consider issues associated with the declaration of sodium/salt on nutrition labelling. In view of the lack of consensus and the range of views, the Committee agreed to remove the square brackets around total sugars and to retain the square brackets around added sugars for further consideration. The Committee agreed to retain dietary fibre in square brackets and to request comments on the rationale for the retention or removal of dietary fibre for further consideration at its next session. The Committee agreed that cholesterol should not be added to the list.

17. The Committee agreed to refer to the CCNFSDU the following requests for consideration:

- Inclusion of saturated fat and sodium in relation to nutrient reference values for nutrients associated with risk of non-communicable diseases;

⁷ ALINORM 09/32/22, paras 13-43

- Establishment of claims for use for labelling relating to salt, trans-fatty acids and added sugars;
- Development of principles for countries to evaluate criteria 1 “the ability of nutrition labelling to address public health issues” when addressing balancing national and global health issues (see below in paragraph 20).

18. The Committee agreed to return the Proposed Draft Revision of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling concerning the list of nutrients that are always declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis as amended to Step 3 for comments and further consideration by its next session of the Committee.

19. The Committee is therefore invited to consider the requests referred from the CCFL and to **inform** the CCFL accordingly.

20. The criteria used to identify nutrients for inclusion in the list of labelling, which had been generally agreed by the 36th CCFL, are reproduced below for ease of reference by the Committee:

- (1) Ability to address a public health issues – including balancing global and national public health priorities and linking into the work of CCNFSDU;
- (2) Ability to assist in informing consumers to make healthy choices – including avoiding misrepresentation of product and enhancing the educational role of labelling;
- (3) Practicality and enforceability of labelling – including analytical capacity, consideration of cost issues and more detailed issues as addressed in CX/FL 09/37/5; and
- (4) Cost/benefit and the linkages between global and national public health priorities.