



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEx COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

Twenty-ninth Session

9-13 February 2026

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 47TH AND 48TH SESSIONS OF THE CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CCEXEC86, CCEXEC87, CCEXEC88 AND CCEXEC89)

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Standards and related texts adopted by the Commission¹

1. CAC47 (2024) adopted the:
 - (i) revision to the *Standard for named vegetable oils* (CXS 210-1999) – Inclusion of avocado oil, at Step 8; and Inclusion of camellia seed oil, Sacha inchi oil, and high oleic acid soya bean oil, at Step 5/8.
 - (ii) revision to the *Standard for fish oils* (CXS 329-2017) – Inclusion of Calanus oil, at Step 5/8.
 - (iii) amendments to the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in the following six fats and oils standards: *Standard for edible fats and oils not covered by individual standards* (CXS 19-1981); *Standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils* (CXS 33-1981); *Standard for named vegetable oils* (CXS 210-1999); *Standard for named animal fats* (CXS 211-1999); *Standard for fat spreads and blended spreads* (CXS 256-1999); and *Standard for fish oils* (CXS 329-2017); and
 - (iv) amendments / revisions to the *Code of Practice for the storage and transport of edible fats and oils in bulk* (CXC 36-1987).
2. CAC47 adopted, at Step 5/8, the revised *Standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils* (CXS 33-1981), with an amendment to Section 3.2.3 4 α -Desmethylsterols composition (% total 4 α -desmethylsterols), footnote (b) to replace “it may be considered” with “it is considered”; and endorsed the recommendation of CCEXEC86 (2024) to extend the timeline to complete the further work relating to ordinary olive oil (as agreed by CCFO27), and 1,2-diglycerides (DAGs) and Pyropheophytin “a” (PPP) to CCFO30.
3. CAC47 held extensive discussions on the decision tree in footnote (c), as defined under section 3.2.3 4 α -Desmethylsterols composition (% total 4 α -desmethylsterols) of CXS 33-1981, in relation to concerns expressed by Members and
 - (i) agreed to initiate work on data collection on Section 3.2.3 footnote (c) (decision tree), that would allow CCFO to make a decision on its applicability to all authentic olive oils.
 - (ii) agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to issue a circular letter (CL) for data collection on the applicability of the decision tree as defined in footnote (c) taking into account the framework as defined in REP24/CAC paragraph 49.
 - (iii) requested FAO to convene an expert working group to analyse the data and its applicability to footnote (c).

¹ REP24/CAC paragraphs 36 - 53 and Appendices II and VII

Approval²

4. CAC47 approved new work on:

- (i) revisions to Codex standards on fats and oils to reduce trans-fatty acid (TFA) intake; and
- (ii) the development of a standard for microbial omega-3 oils.

Future of Codex³

5. CCEXEC86 (2024):

- noted that, as the format of meetings continues to evolve, the Model for future Codex work⁴ should be retained as a reference document, and periodic updates on the evolution of working mechanisms and identification of any challenges encountered that may require further consideration by CCEXEC, CAC, or the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) should be provided through a working document prepared by the Codex Secretariat;
- encouraged more Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups to ensure their sustainability and inclusiveness, while recognizing the challenges these Members may face and further encouraged the Codex Secretariat and experienced working group Chairs to proactively seek engagement of other Members and provide guidance and support; and
- reminded Codex committees of the importance of good work management practices and prioritization of work to avoid the establishment of too many EWGs and the related burden on all concerned and ensure that agenda items can be adequately discussed within the available plenary session time.

Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031

6. CAC47 adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2026 - 2031.⁵

7. CAC48 (2025) adopted the monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, as proposed by CCEXEC89 (2025), noting that it may be reviewed after two years when initial data is available and some experience has been gained on its use.

Guidelines for new work proposals⁶

8. CCEXEC87 (2024) welcomed the Codex Secretariat's plans to develop practical guidelines for Members on the development of new work proposals and proposed that:

- the guidelines should encourage development of group commodity standards; the drafting of commodity standards so as to facilitate future enlargement of their scope by adding similar products; and a review of standards that may have been developed by other organizations for commodities for which there is established international trade; and
- the Codex Secretariat engages with Members to build awareness of the development of these guidelines, and the Handbook on EWGs, and seek input on issues that Members would wish to see included in these guidelines.

Codex EWGs handbook

9. CAC47 welcomed the publication of the Codex electronic working group handbook⁷ and encouraged its use and noted the ongoing work on developing a practical guide on the preparation of new work proposals, noting the opportunities for Members to provide input.

Monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts

10. CAC47 recalled the ongoing work on building a mechanism to monitor the use and impact of Codex texts, including an annual survey, case studies, and collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO), and thanked Members for participating in the 2024 Codex survey.⁸

² REP24/CAC paragraph 169(i) and Appendix V

³ REP24/EXEC1, paragraph 61 (i), (iii), and (v)

⁴ [CX/EXEC 24/86/3](#)

⁵ REP24/CAC, paragraph 216 and Appendix IX

⁶ REP24/EXEC2 paragraph 82;

⁷ REP24/CAC, paragraph 22 (ii) and (iii); <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3481en>

⁸ REP24/CAC, paragraph 209 (bullet v)

11. The reports of the Codex survey 2023⁹ and 2024¹⁰ on the use and impact of Codex texts, along with the report titled *"Use and implementation of Codex, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) standards: How do the three sisters monitor the impact of their work?"*¹¹ have been published online.

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

43rd and 44th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS43 and CCMAS44)¹²

12. CCMAS43 (2024):
- (i) endorsed methods of analysis and numeric performance criteria (for determination of iron and copper) for olive oils and olive pomace oils; In light of the numeric performance criteria for the aforementioned two elements and inclusion of example methods that meet these criteria, the methods for iron and copper currently listed in the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999) were revoked.
 - (ii) endorsed the method AOCS Ch 8-02 for determining wax content in fish oil (calanus oil), with a revision to the commodity name to read "fish oil (calanus oil)"; and
 - (iii) agreed on the principles and examples of applicable methods that met the numeric performance criteria for the determination of lead in edible fats and oils (including fats and oils (all); named vegetable oils; olive oils and olive pomace oils).
13. CCMAS43 further took the following decisions:

Peroxide value in olive oils and olive pomace oils

- (a) did not endorse the COI/T.20/Doc.No.35 (peroxide value) as a Type I method already existed in CXS 234-1999 and CCMAS generally did not endorse methods that used hazardous reagents, such as chloroform, and thus there was no compelling reason to have a Type IV co-exist with a Type I method.

Unsaponifiable matter in olive oils and olive pomace oils

- (b) did not endorse the AOCS Ca 6a-40 (unsaponifiable matter) as the method is not known to be validated for olive oil and olive pomace oils. CCMAS also concluded that the ISO 3596 and AOCS Ca 6b-53 methods are validated for fish and soybean oil, which have a high level of unsaponifiable matter, and the current listing in CXS 234-1999 would be retained. It was suggested to consider the AOCS method should data be provided in future and that CCMAS will inform CCFO accordingly.

DAGs and PPP in olive oils and olive pomace oils

- (c) noted that CCMAS was unable to endorse the methods for DAGs and PPP for inclusion in CXS 234-1999 as there were no specifications for DAGs and PPP in the revised CXS 33-1981. However, considering the request from CCFO for these methods to enable data generation and collection to assist with further work on the development of specifications for these two compounds, CCMAS agreed to recommend ISO 29822 and COI/T.20/Doc. No 32 (1,2 diglycerides) and ISO 29841 (pyropheophytin "a") as methods fit for purpose to determine DAG and PPP in olive oils and olive pomace oils.

Information document - e-book with the sampling plans applications¹³

14. CCMAS44 (2025) agreed to publish as an information document, the e-book with the sampling plans applications, which aims to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the *General guidelines on sampling* (CXG 50-2004), and to remove the current information document titled "Practical examples of sampling plans" from the Codex website.

⁹ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/81926421-4c7f-4c7c-8e41-5b455d06868a>

¹⁰ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/8bad756e-1ec9-4806-bc5d-85decacd5dc4>

¹¹ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/d93faf09-2ecd-4ee5-89e7-d39412baaf7c>

¹² REP24/MAS paragraphs 11 and 20(v) and Appendices II and III, MAS43/CRD03

¹³ REP25/MAS paragraph 100(i-ii)

15. CCMAS44 noted the possible need for CCMAS to provide support to commodity committees in their review of sampling plans.

55th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA55)¹⁴

16. CCFA55 (2025) endorsed the:

- amendments to food additive provisions in FC 02.1.2 of Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA related to the alignment of the *Standard for edible fats and oils not covered by individual standards* (CXS 19-1981); and
- proposed draft food additive provision for PAPRIKA EXTRACT submitted for adoption at Step 5/8.

48th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL48)¹⁵

17. CCFL48 (2024) endorsed the amendment to the labelling provisions in the *Standard for fish oils* (CXS 329-2017).
18. CCFL48 agreed to retain trans fatty acids (TFAs) in the inventory table under the agenda item on future work, and to consider returning to it once the CCFO work on TFAs is completed.
19. CCFL48 agreed to inform all committees to take note of the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985) and the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021) and strive to follow the format, the terminology and the flow to avoid the redundancy for any future labelling provisions.

12th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNE12)¹⁶

20. CCNE12 agreed to support the revisions to CXS 33-1981 as one of its priorities; encouraged Members to actively engage in the relevant discussions, and data generation as necessary; and invited Members to provide data to assist in the validation / revision of footnote (c) in Section 3.2.3 of CXS 33-1981 in coordination with the relevant regional scientific bodies.

MATTERS FOR ACTION

54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA54)¹⁷

21. CCFA54 (2024) agreed to request guidance from CCFO on the technological justification 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).

RECOMMENDATIONS

22. CCFO29 is invited to:
- (i) note the information from CAC and its subsidiary bodies as provided in the relevant paragraphs above; and
 - (ii) provide a reply to the request of CCFA54 indicated in paragraph 21.

¹⁴ REP24/FA paragraphs 23,27, 105

¹⁵ REP24/FL, paragraphs 23, 35 and 183

¹⁶ REP25/NE, paragraph 71(i-iii)

¹⁷ REP24/FA paragraphs 23, 27 and 95, Appendices VI and VIII