

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

CRD14

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Forty-Ninth Session

Macao SAR, China, 20-24 March 2017

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Comments of India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Russian Federation and African Union

India

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 39TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC39)

B. Matters for action

Revised Food Additives Section of the Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products (CODEXSTAN 87-1981)

Paragraph 4 - 7:

Use of Gold and Silver were allowed as part of commodity standard (CODEX STAN 87 – 1981) as colours for decoration purpose. However as part of the alignment of commodity standard with GSFA these provisions for Gold and Silver were proposed to be removed.

As confirmed by JECFA, during the last CAC meeting, use of gold (INS 175) and silver (INS 174) would not represent a hazard due to its small amount likely to be ingested. It is to be noted that JECFA had not been able to complete the evaluation of silver due to insufficient data.

Use of Gold and Silver is solely for the purpose of surface decorations of chocolate and chocolate products, and they are not added as colours into the products itself. Amount of such products in the markets is also very small because it is a niche category product, hence exposure levels are expected to be extremely low. Use of such surface decorations is part of cultural heritage of many countries, and India has not come across any food safety concern related to their use.

India supports retention of Gold and Silver provisions in the commodity standard (CODEX STAN 87 – 1981).

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

B. Matters for action

28th Session of Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV28)

Paragraph 18:

India supports the use of “emulsifier, stabilizer, thickener” in general in food categories 14.1.2 “Fruit and vegetable juices” and 14.1.3 “Fruit and vegetable nectars”. India supports adoption of xanthan gum in these categories.

Rationale: Emulsifiers and Stabilizers (like Pectin, Carboxyl Methyl Cellulose, Gellan Gum, Carrageenan, Alginates) are used in juices and beverages to:

- For suspension of cells, peel and pulp particles to further enhance taste experience.
- Avoid separation/sedimentation.
- Enhance mouth feel which in turn improves taste profile.
- Get homogeneous consistency as per consumer’s requirements.

Xanthan gum provides i) Resistance to Enzymatic degradation; ii) Excellent stability of viscosity over a wide pH range; iii) Excellent stability of viscosity over a temperature range; and, iv) High viscosity at low shear rate. Therefore, it must be allowed in 14.1.2 “Fruit and vegetable juices” and 14.1.3 “Fruit and vegetable nectars” where natural enzymes, varying pH, varying temperature and processing conditions are involved predominately.

Paragraph 20:

India supports use of tocopherols in **food category 04.1.2** “Processed fruits”

Paragraph 21:

India supports use of tartrates (INS 334, 335 (ii), 337) in food category 04.1.2.2 “**Dried fruits**”

Paragraph 22:

India supports use of tartrates (INS 334, 335 (ii), 337) in food category 04.1.2.3 “**Fruit in vinegar, oil or brine**”

Paragraph 23-24:

India supports use of propylene glycol alginate (INS 405) in food category 04.1.2.5 “Jams, Jellies and Marmalades”

Paragraph 25-27:

India supports adoption of use of tartrates (INS 334, 335 (ii), 337) in food category 04.1.2.6 “Fruit based spreads (e.g. chutney) excluding products of food category 04.1.2.5”.

As largest producer, exporter and consumer of Mango chutney, India would like to mention that tartrates are being used in products manufactured in India, hence use of tartrates should be permitted in products conforming to (CODEX STAN 160-1987).

Hence the proposed new note “excluding products conforming to Mango Chutney (CODEX STAN 160-1987)” should be deleted.

Paragraph 30: Use of colours - Annexure on French fried potatoes.

India is of the opinion that this agenda is pertaining to the subject covered in Codex Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods (CODEX CAC/RCP 67 – 2009), which has been established by Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods. Hence this agenda should be referred to CCCF for their views.

Indonesia

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES REVISED FOOD ADDITIVES SECTION OF THE STANDARD FOR CHOCOLATE AND CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS (CODEX STAN 87-1981)

Revised Food Additives Section of the *Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products* (CODEX STAN 87-1981)

Comment:

Indonesia noted that JECFA evaluation for gold (INS 175) and silver (INS 174) were conducted in 1977 and JECFA has not been completed the evaluation of silver. Indonesia would like to propose that JECFA should consider to re-evaluate gold and silver and the discussion on the use of old and silver as food additives should be deferred until JECFA completed the evaluation.

28th Session of Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV28)

Responses to CCFA48's request on technological justification on the use of food additives¹⁴ *Use of antioxidants and tocopherols (INS 307a, b, c) in food category 04.1.2 “Processed Fruit”*

Comment:

Indonesia would like to provide additional information regarding the use of tocopherols in this food category. In Indonesia, tocopherols are used as antioxidant in desiccated coconut which fall under food category 04.1.2.2 and coconut jam which fall under food category 04.1.2.5.

Food Additive Provision in Codex Standards for Processed Fruits and Vegetable

Annex on French Fried Potatoes

Colours

Comment:

Indonesia considers that colours should not be used in connection with reduction of acrylamide. It is more appropriate to use acidity regulator such as citric acid and acetic acid to reduce acrylamide.

Nigeria**2.1 Matters Arising From The 39th Session Of The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC39)****B. Matters for action****Revised Food Additives Section of the *Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products* (CODEX STAN 87-1981)****Comment:**

Gold and silver need not be included in the GSFA at the moment. Member states should provide data on silver to JECFA for evaluation.

Rationale:

It will be a breach of procedure to include these substances in GSFA without sufficient data and proper evaluation by JECFA.

Russian Federation**Matters Referred By The Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Subsidiary Bodies*****Revised Food Additives Section of the Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products (CODEX STAN 87-1981) - provisions for gold (INS 175) and silver (INS 174)***

Colloidal metallic silver - food additive (INS 174), used in the form of foil or grains, does not belong to the number of microelements essential for the organism. There are no known specific functions of silver in the human body.

Highly refined silver of 999 tests in the form of products (tableware, jewelry, etc.) is not dangerous for human health. Confirmation of this - a long history (for many millennia) of silver safe use as a tableware. Upon contact with water, it is released in very small amounts (less than 20 µg per l) of silver ions. There is evidence of the possibility of a bacteriostatic effect with such a "silver" water (Blagitko EM et al. Silver in medicine, Novosibirsk, 2004, 254 p.). However, the concentration of silver ions in the water acting on microorganisms upon contact with highly refined silver of 999 is very slow (within 5 days and longer). Thus, highly purified metallic silver can interact with potable water and other aqueous media with a moderate bacteriostatic effect.

The complete inertia of highly purified gold and low levels of bacteriostatic activity of silver 999 tests, in our opinion, a long history (for many millennia) of gold and silver safe use as a tableware, are the basis for their safe use as food additives - colours in accordance with the standard for chocolate and chocolate products (CODEX STAN 87-1981).

African Union**MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES****2.2 Matters Arising From The 39th Session Of The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC39)****B. Matters for action**

Issue: At CAC 39 one delegation noted that the provisions for gold (INS 175) and silver (INS 174), which were originally included in the Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products (CODEX STAN 87-1981), had not been included in the GSFA when aligning the provisions of the standard with the relevant provisions of the GSFA.

Position: Gold and silver should not be included in the GSFA until JECFA has conducted an evaluation and the safety of silver clarified.

Rationale: JECFA had concluded that the use of gold would not represent a health hazard due to its small amount likely to be ingested, however, JECFA has not been able to complete the evaluation of silver due to insufficient data.

2.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES**B. Matters for action**

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- (i) **AU** comments on CCPFV28 replies to the questions posed by CCFA47/48 are in our comments on Agenda Item 5.
 - (ii) **AU** comments on requests related to the food additive provisions in the proposed draft Annexes on Canned Pineapples (Standard for Certain Canned Fruits (CODEX STAN 319-2015)) and French Fried Potatoes (Standard for Quick Frozen Vegetables (CODEX STAN 320-2015)) are detailed in our comments under Agenda Item 4b.