

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8

CRD28

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES
Forty-Ninth Session
Macao SAR, China, 20-24 March 2017
DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CCFA WORK
Comments of IOFI

The International Organization of the Flavor Industry (IOFI) wishes to raise a concern regarding flavourings in the context of the Discussion Paper on the Management of CCFA Work (CX/FA 17/49/14). Paragraph 14 of this discussion paper contains the following statement: “**substances placed on the JECFA priority list should be limited to food additives and should not include substances that are not included in the GSFA (such as processing aids)**”.

Flavourings are not included in the GSFA as they are covered by the Guidelines on the Use of Flavourings (CAC/GL 66-2008). Moreover, flavourings do not have INS numbers, which is another requirement for inclusion of food additives in the GSFA. Instead, flavouring agents do have a JECFA number as stated in the Introduction of CAC/GL 36-1989 - Class Names and the International Numbering System (INS) for Food Additives: “*The INS does not include flavourings which have a JECFA number as identifier*”.

So far, JECFA has evaluated more than 2200 flavouring agents and has plans to re-evaluate flavourings in a future programme as outlined in paragraph 9 of CX/FA 17/49/3 - Matters of Interest from the 82nd Meeting of JECFA.

To preserve future evaluation(s) of new flavouring agents, including the re-evaluation of flavourings, IOFI recommends a modification of the decision tree for the screening of CCFA priorities that is presented in paragraph 27 of CX/FA 17/49/14.

The suggestion is to insert **OR** between criterion 1 and 2 as follows:

Is the topic relevant to developing the GSFA to be the single authoritative Codex Standard for the use of food additives?
OR
Can the topic be addressed through one of the existing EWGs (EWG on GSFA, Alignment, INS, JECFA priority list)?

With this (minor) modification any question on the evaluation or re-evaluation of flavouring agents can be addressed as the resulting answer would deliver a ‘Yes’ for criterion 2 and a reference to the Chair of the relevant EWG for prioritization (i.e. the Chair of the EWG on the JECFA priority list).