



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-second Session

Comments of Nigeria/India

CX/FA 21/52/5 Add.1

DRAFT STANDARD FOR DRIED ROOTS, RHIZOMES AND BULBS — DRIED OR DEHYDRATED GINGER

1. Additional information on processing aids (Calcium oxide and Sulfur dioxide)

In practice and as agreed at the CCSC5, Calcium oxide (CaO) is used as a processing aid in the production of dried or dehydrated ginger. During the processing of ginger, the scrapped fresh ginger or dried ginger is soaked in lime solution until the rhizomes are uniformly 'white' in colour followed by drying. This process gives ginger a 'brighter' appearance, minimizes shrinkage, improves quality and causes it to be less susceptible to attack by pests during storage and transport.

Sulfite/ Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is used similarly as a colour retention agent in ginger processing. We recall that the CCSC5 reached a consensus on the provision based on the justification provided by the proponents that the Sulphur dioxide treatment is permitted by an EU Regulation (EC) No. 1333/2008, with a maximum limit of 150 mg/kg expressed as SO₂ that is within the level permitted in the GSFA Standard for SO₂.

Though the functional class "bleaching agent" is defined under section 2 of CXG/GL36-1989 (Class names and International Numbering System for Food Additives), the functional class/technological purpose of Calcium Oxide (INS 529) as per section 3 is only for Acidity regulator and flour treatment agent and not as "bleaching agent". Further, Calcium Oxide is not permitted in the food category 12.2.1 as an additive, and the same is listed as processing aid in the Inventory of processing aids. In addition, SO₂ also is listed in the said inventory and hence there is no bar in using the SO₂ as processing aid.

In view of the above, the CCSC5 reached consensus that calcium oxide and sulfur dioxide were used as "processing aids" in dried and dehydrated ginger for bleaching purposes (para 63, REP21/SCH).

The *Codex Alimentarius Commission Procedural Manual* recognizes Processing aids under food additives and defines it in "Section I: Definitions for the purpose of the *Codex Alimentarius*" as:

"any substance or material, not including apparatus or utensils, and not consumed as a food ingredient by itself, intentionally used in the processing of raw materials, foods or its ingredients, to fulfil a certain technological purpose during treatment or processing and which may result in the non-intentional but unavoidable presence of residues or derivatives in the final product."

Hence, the need to retain the provision for these substances as processing aids under section 4 *Food Additives*.

2. On section 4.2 Processing Aids:

The unit of value for Calcium oxide should be corrected from "mg/kg" to **"on dry basis by mass, %"**.

Rationale:

It was an editorial error during the adoption of CCSC5 report. The CCSC5 actually agreed on **"on dry basis by mass, %"** as contained in CRD33, and in line with ISO 1003 Standard (Spices – Ginger (*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe) – Specification.