

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 8 and 9

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES Fifty-Fourth Session

Comments of South Africa

Agenda item 2: MATTERS REFERRED BY THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS (CCFO28)- CX/FA 24/54/2 ADD.1

South Africa supports the:

- Discontinuation of the provisions for Chlorophylls (INS 140) and Paprika extract (INS 160c (ii) in products conforming to CXS 19-1981- Standard for Edible Fats and Oils not Covered by Individual Standards and to CXS 256-1999- Standard for Fat Spreads and Blended Spreads.
- That the provision for Paprika extract (INS 160c (ii) in products conforming to CXS 253-2006 - standard for dairy fat spreads be considered by the working group on the GSFA.

Rationale

- The relevant Codex commodity committee agreed that there is no technological justification for the use of the said food additives in the food categories and that their use would mislead consumers.
- CXS 253-2006 is outside the scope of the CCFO and the CCMMP is adjourned, therefore the CCFA should elaborate the discussions under the WG on the GSFA. Also, the provisions for colours are justified in section 4 of CXS 253-2006- standard for dairy fat spreads.

Agenda item 3a: MATTERS RELATED TO AZODICARBONAMIDE (INS 927A) - CX/FA 24/54/3 ADD.1

South Africa supports deletion on the GSFA.

Rationale

The ADI of this food additive has been withdrawn due to the absence of data.

Agenda item 3b: PROPOSED DRAFT SPECIFICATIONS FOR IDENTITY AND PURITY OF FOOD ADDITIVES ARISING FROM THE 96TH AND 97TH JECFA MEETINGS RESPECTIVELY - CX/FA 24/54/4

South Africa supports the recommendation for the adoption of the specification by CAC.

Rationale

The substances have undergone a scientific evaluation by the JECFA.

Agenda item 4a: ENDORSEMENT AND/OR REVISION OF MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR FOOD ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS IN CODEX STANDARDS- CX/FA 24/54/5

South Africa supports the endorsement of the food additives provisions related to the Standard for dried or dehydrated roots, rhizomes and bulbs – turmeric.

Rationale

The text is aligned with the provisions outlined in the Procedural Manual.

Agenda item 4b: ALIGNMENT OF THE FOOD ADDITIVE PROVISIONS OF COMMODITY STANDARDS: REPORT OF THE EWG ON ALIGNMENT - CX/FA 24/54/6

South Africa supports: -

- The alignment of the commodity standards from the CCPFV (CXS 57-1981- Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrates; CXS 66-1981- Standard for Table Olives; CXS 260-2007 - Standard for Pickled Fruits and Vegetables; CXS 320-2017; CXS 320-2015- Standard for Quick Frozen Vegetables) with the GSFA.
- The development of the Table 3 notes.

Rationale

- Food additives in standards from the CCPFV have been aligned with the provisions in the GSFA.
- The notes will clarify the restrictions that apply to certain Table 3 food additives.

Agenda item 5a: GENERAL STANDARD FOR FOOD ADDITIVES (GSFA): REPORT OF THE ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUP -CX/FA 24/54/7

Appendix 1: Remaining draft and proposed draft provisions for sweeteners in the GSFA and adopted sweetener provisions with Note 161.

South Africa supports the adoption of the ML with the attached notes on the provisions for sweeteners in all FC except FC 07.1 (Bread and ordinary bakery wares) and its subcategories. The support for FC 07.1 and its subcategories is subject to agreeing on the revision of note 347 to exclude plain products.

Appendix 2: Draft and proposed draft provisions for colours in FCs 07.0, 12.0, 13.0 and 15.0 and their subcategories as well as adopted provisions for colours with Note 161 in FCs 07.0, 12.0, 13.0 and 15.0 and their subcategories.

South Africa supports the adoption of the ML with the attached notes on the provisions for sweeteners in all FC except FC 07.1 (Bread and ordinary bakery wares) and its subcategories. The support for FC 07.1 and its subcategories is subject to agreeing on the revision of note 347 to exclude plain products.

Appendix 3: Draft and proposed draft provisions in FC 14.2 and its subcategories. Appx 3 contains only draft provisions in FC 14.2.3 (Grape wines) & its subcategories.

South Africa supports the recommendations of the EWG's chair.

Appendix 4: New and revised provisions in the GSFA entered into the step process at Step 2 as a result of CX/FA 23/53/9

South Africa supports the elevation of the food additives suggested by the EWG in the step process, particularly the inclusion of Jagua Blue at 80 ppm in FC:14.1.4 (Water-based flavoured drinks, including "sport", "energy", or "electrolyte" drinks and particulated drinks).

Appendix 5: All remaining draft and proposed draft provisions in the GSFA with the exception of: colours not addressed in parts ii and iii, and provisions for which CCFA is awaiting guidance from other Codex Alimentarius Committees or JECFA.

Support the recommendations of the EWG, and also, the recommendation to hold the provision for propylene glycol (INS1520) at the current step in parent category 14.1.4 at ML of 3000 ppm, add Note 127 "on an as consumed basis" and Note 131 "for use as a flavour carrier only".

Rationale

- Regarding the alternative notes, Option 1, "Excluding plain products" of the proposed alternative note is supported because the use of food additives with colours and sweetener function is not justified in plain products.
- The 84th and 89th JECFA assessments have considered levels up to 80 ppm in non-alcoholic beverages. This is a new colour (Jagua Blue) that may be considered in future innovations.
- The committee should request JECFA clarification on whether the exposure assessment was considered in this FC (14.1.4) and at what usage levels.

Agenda item 5b: GENERAL STANDARD FOR FOOD ADDITIVES (GSFA): PROPOSALS FOR NEW AND/OR REVISION OF FOOD ADDITIVE PROVISIONS (REPLIES TO CL 2019/55-FA)- CX/FA 24/54/8

South Africa supports the proposed list, however, it is recommended that the proposal from Peru regarding food additives in food category: 04.1.2.5 be referred to the working group on alignment.

Rationale:

The standards for jams, jellies, and marmalades (CXS 296-2009) include provisions for food additives related to FC 04.1.2.5. Therefore, the working group on alignment is best suited to address this issue.

Agenda item 8: DISCUSSION PAPER ON DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR FOOD ADDITIVES (GSFA), CODEX COMMODITY STANDARDS AND OTHER TEXTS – IDENTIFICATION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES -CX/FA 24/54/11

South Africa supports option 2= minor amendment to the procedural manual to remove para 60.

Rationale

This will ensure that once the alignment process is completed, there is complete alignment of the commodity standards to the GSFA. While there are guidance documents to prevent future divergence, food additives provisions were developed by other commodity committees. Additionally, paragraph 60 of the PM allows for divergence to occur.

Agenda item 9: DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STANDARD FOR BAKER'S YEAST -CX/FA 24/54/12

South Africa supports the new work for the development of the standard for baker's yeast.

Rationale

The discussion paper highlights international trade in bakers' yeast, which could be potentially restricted by national legislation across different countries.