



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
STANDARD

**STANDARD FOR
COCOA BUTTER**
CXS 86-1981



ADOPTED 1981
AMENDED 2025

CXS 86-1981

History of the standard

2025 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-eighth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in November 2025, amendments were made in Section 6: “Methods of analysis and sampling” by replacing methods of analysis with a reference to the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999).

This publication was redesigned and published in 2025.

2022 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in December 2022, amendments were made in Section 5.2: “Labelling of non-retail containers”.

Amendments and revisions made prior to 2022:

Amended in 2016.

Revised in 2001.

Adopted in 1981.

1 Scope

This standard applies exclusively to cocoa butter used as an ingredient in the manufacture of chocolate and chocolate products.

2 Description

2.1 Definition of cocoa butter

Cocoa butter is the fat obtained from cocoa beans with the following characteristics:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free fatty acid content (expressed as oleic acid): • unsaponifiable matter: | <p>not more than 1.75% m/m</p> <p>not more than 0.7% m/m,
except in the case of press cocoa butter
which shall not be more than 0.35% m/m</p> |
|--|---|

3 Food additives

No additives are permitted in this product.

3.1 Processing aids

	Maximum level
Hexane (62 °C - 82 °C)	1 mg/kg excluding press cocoa butter

The processing aids used in products conforming to this standard should be consistent with the *Guidelines on substances used as processing aids* (CXG 75-2010).¹

4 Hygiene

It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the *General principles of food hygiene* (CXC 1-1969),² and other relevant Codex texts such as codes of hygienic practice and codes of practice.

The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the *Principles and guidelines for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria for foods* (CXG 21-1997).³

5 Labelling

In addition to the *General standard for labelling of pre-packaged goods* (CXS 1-1985),⁴ the following shall apply:

5.1 Name of the product

Cocoa butter

The product shall be “cocoa butter” except that the name “press cocoa butter” may be used for products in conformity with the description for this product given in Section 2.1: “Definition of cocoa butter”.

5.2 Labelling of non-retail containers

The labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021).⁵

6 Methods of analysis and sampling

For checking compliance with this standard, the methods of analysis and sampling contained in the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999)⁶ relevant to the provisions in this standard shall be used.

Referenced texts

- 1 *Guidelines on substances used as processing aids* (CXG 75-2010).
- 2 *General principles of food hygiene* (CXC 1-1969).
- 3 *Principles and guidelines for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria for foods* (CXG 21-1997).
- 4 *General standard for labelling of pre-packaged goods* (CXS 1-1985).
- 5 *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021).
- 6 *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999).

Codex Alimentarius

A collection of international food standards developed to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in the food trade. Codex standards are adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, an intergovernmental body with 189 Members, established by FAO and WHO. The standards are recognized by the World Trade Organization as the benchmark for the safety of internationally traded food.

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Codex Alimentarius Standard, No. CXS 87-1981. Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome.
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