



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-sixth Session

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND
OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE 48TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC48)
AND THE 89TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION (CCEXEC89)

48th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48)

Standards and related texts adopted by the Commission¹

1. CAC48(2025) adopted:

- (i) the specifications for the identity and purity of food additives for inclusion in the *List of Codex specifications for food additives* (CXA 6-2024).
- (ii) the revision of the *Class names and the international numbering system for food additives* (CXG 36-1989).
- (iii) the relevant food additive provisions of the *General standard for food additives* (GSFA, CXS 192-1995) and revisions to adopted provisions.
- (iv) the following revisions/amendments to the GSFA:
 - o Revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of five FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA) standards, three FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE) standards, eight Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) standards, one Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) standard, and one Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL) standard.
 - o Revision to the reference to commodity standards for the GSFA Table 3 additives for food category 12.2.1 "Herbs and spices (ONLY SPICES)".
 - o Replacement of incorrect Notes (48 and 168) associated with the use of advantame (INS 969) in food category 01.4.4 (Cream analogues) with correct Notes (68 and 478).
- (v) revised food additive sections of three CCASIA standards, three CCNE standards, eight CCSCH standards, and the *Standard for rice* (CXS 198-1995).
- (vi) revised food additive provisions of the *Standards for pickled cucumbers (Cucumber Pickles)* (CXS 115-1981), *canned stone fruits* (CXS 242-2003); and jams, jellies and marmalades (CXS 296-2009).
- (vii) amendment to the *Standard for food grade salt* (CXS 150-1985).

Approval², Revocation³, and Discontinuation of work⁴

2. CAC48:

- (i) approved the proposals for new food additive provisions of the GSFA and priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA;

¹ REP25/CAC paragraphs 31 and Appendix II and VII

² REP25/CAC paragraph 74 and Appendix V

³ REP25/CAC paragraph 32 and Appendix IV

⁴ REP25/CAC paragraph 33 and Appendix VI

- (ii) revoked the specified draft food additive provisions of the GSFA; and
- (iii) discontinued work on specified draft food additive provisions for the GSFA.

Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031⁵⁶

3. CAC47(2024) adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.
4. CAC48 adopted the monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, noting that it may be reviewed after two years when initial data is available and some experience has been gained on its use.

Improvements in the timeliness of documents⁷

5. CAC48, recognizing that the timely delivery of documents is a shared responsibility, reminded all Members, committees and electronic working groups (EWGs) of the importance of timely delivery of and more concise documents.

Leadership roles in EWGs⁸

6. CAC48 encouraged FAO, WHO and experienced Members to support mentorship mechanisms to assist more Members to take up leadership roles in working groups.

Ensuring adequate and timely scientific advice for Codex standards⁹

7. CAC48 emphasized the importance of timely and adequately resourced scientific advice to support the development and adoption of science-based Codex standards; encouraged FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat to provide information on priorities and related costs to assist CAC in prioritizing requests and to support Members in securing resources for the Joint FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Programme; noted that support for scientific advice extends beyond financial resources to include access to data and expertise; and encouraged Members to promote engagement of national experts and timely data submission. CAC48 further noted the need for innovative approaches to address scientific advice needs and invited FAO and WHO to explore such approaches.

89th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC89)¹⁰

Development of the food additive provisions in the *Regional standard for doogh* (Near East) (CXS 332R-2018)

8. CCEXEC89(2025) noted that the food additive provisions in the *Regional standard for doogh* (Near East) (CXS 332R-2018) were pending endorsement by CCFA and were therefore not ready for adoption. It was also noted that further discussion on the technical justification for the use of food additives in doogh might be needed in the next session of CCNE. Hence, CCEXEC89 agreed to put on hold any recommendations on the food additive provisions in the *Regional standard for doogh* (Near East) (CXS 332R-2018).

Development of databases

9. CCEXEC89 recommended that any additional resources be used for some priority areas, including the update on the GSFA database.

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHERS

44th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling¹¹ (CCMAS44)

Method for determination of sodium chloride in food grade salt

10. CCFA55(2025) requested CCMAS to include the method for the determination of sodium chloride described in the *Standard for food grade salt* (CXS 150-1985) into the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999).
11. CCMAS44(2025) agreed to transfer the method for the determination of sodium chloride in food grade salt as described in CXS 150-1985 with editorial amendments to CXS 234-1999 (Part A) and transfer the related sampling plan to CXS 234-1999 (Part B). Noting that the sampling plan was currently incompatible with the provision for sodium chloride and would require further review and agreed that such review could be taken up later under the work on the review of sampling plans.

⁵ REP24/CAC, paragraph 216 and Appendix IX

⁶ REP25/CAC paragraph 158

⁷ REP25/CAC paragraph 17(ii)

⁸ REP25/CAC paragraph 17(iii)

⁹ REP25/CAC paragraph 139

¹⁰ REP25/EXEC2 paragraph 45 and paragraph 78(vi)

¹¹ REP25/MAS paragraphs 16-18, 125 and Appendix III, V

12. CCMAS44 also agreed with an update to the hyperlink in the footnote referencing the method for iodine in food grade salt in CXS 234-1999. All these changes to CXS 234-1999 have been adopted by CAC48.

Numeric performance criteria (NPC) for nitrate and nitrite in specific food matrices

13. CCFA51(2019) agreed to take a risk management approach that would establish both ingoing and residue levels for nitrates and nitrites in GSFA (CXS 192-1995).

14. CCFA52(2021) requested CCMAS to: (i) establish NPC for methods of analysis in specified food matrices; (ii) provide information on available analytical methods suitable for both the adopted MLs and the lowest proposed residue levels; and (iii) clarify whether the methods measured nitrate and nitrite ions separately or in combination.

15. CCMAS44 agreed to forward the NPC for nitrate and nitrite in specified food matrices ([REP25/MAS Appendix V](#)), together with the remaining information in [CX/MAS 25/44/10](#) for consideration by CCFA.

23rd Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia¹² (CCASIA23)

16. CCFA54(2023) requested CCASIA to provide answers to several questions regarding the use of food additives and appropriate GSFA food categories for commodities conforming to standards established by CCASIA. In response, CCASIA23 (2025) forwarded the following answers to CCFA for their consideration:

RIBOFLAVINS in the *Regional standards for fermented soybean paste (Asia)* (CXS 298R-2009)

17. CCASIA23(2025) agreed to delete riboflavin, synthetic (INS 101(i)) from the table to Section 4 of CXS 298R-2009 and confirm that other individual additives in the group of RIBOFLAVINS were acceptable for use in foods conforming to CXS 298R-2009.

Carotenoid-related food additives in the *Regional standard for non-fermented soybean products (Asia)* (CXS 322R-2015)

18. CCASIA23 agreed to:

- (i) inform CCFA that these additives had been technically justified; and
- (ii) forward the proposed maximum use levels of carotenoid-related food additives (INS 160a(i), 160a(ii), 160a(iii), 160a(iv), and INS 160e) as follows to CCFA for consideration.

Food additive	INS	Maximum use level	Notes
BETA CAROTENES	160a(i), 160a(iii), 160a(iv)	25 mg/kg	127, 341, 344
beta-Carotenes, vegetable	160a(ii)	25 mg/kg	127, 341, 344
Carotenal, beta-apo-8'-	160e	10 mg/kg	127

GSFA Food Categories for laver products covered by the *Regional standard for laver products (Asia)* (CXS 323R-2017)

19. CCASIA23 informed CCFA that laver products covered by CXS 323R-2017 would solely fall into the GSFA food categories 04.2.2.2 and 04.2.2.8.

Paprika extract (INS 160c(ii)) in the *Regional standard for non-fermented soybean products (Asia)* (CXS 322R-2015)

20. CCASIA23 forwarded the following information to CCFA for its consideration:

- (i) The use of INS 160c(ii) in fruit-flavoured soybean beverages conforming to CXS 322R-2015 in combination with fruit juices such as apple, pineapple, orange, and mandarin orange could adjust colour of soybean beverages containing fruit juice.
- (ii) The maximum use level should be 15 mg/kg.

12th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East¹³ (CCNE12)

Appropriate Food Category (FC) for products covered by the *Regional standard for mixed zaatar (Near East)* (CXS 341R-2020)

21. CCFA55 sought clarification from CCNE on the appropriate corresponding FC for mixed zaatar in order to align the food additive provisions in the *Regional standard for mixed zaatar (Near East)* (CXS 341R-2020), with the GSFA noting that FC 12.2.2 (Seasonings and Condiments) might be appropriate.

¹² REP25/ASIA paragraphs 40, 43, 45, 46, 104 and Appendix III and VII, Part B

¹³ REP25/NE paragraphs 29, 31 and Appendix II

22. CCNE12(2025) agreed with the proposal by CCFA55 regarding the suitability of FC 12.2.2 for products conforming to CXS 341R-2020.

Regional standard for doogh (Near East) (CXS 332R-2018)

23. CAC41(2018)¹⁴ adopted the *Regional Standard for doogh* (Near East) (CXS 322R-2018) and agreed to publish it, noting that the provisions on food additives would be subject to further development.

24. CCNE11(2023)¹⁵ put work on food additives for CXS 332R-2018 on hold, due to the ongoing work on the alignment of additive provisions for the *Standard for fermented milks* (CXS 243-2003) with the GSFA, noting that doogh was a drink based on fermented milk.

25. Following the completion of the alignment of the food additives provisions in CXS 243-2003 with the GSFA by CCFA54(2024)¹⁶, CCNE12(2024) agreed to include the same food additives provisions in CXS 332R-2018, and forwarded them to CAC for adoption, following endorsement by CCFA (Also refer to paragraph 8).

Matters from the Codex Secretariat

Corrections to the Note 667 associated with the use of tartrazine (INS 102) in FC 06.8.1

26. CCFA55 (2024) submitted to CAC48 for adoption, Note 667 (recorded as Note APP1S in REP25/FA), associated with tartrazine (INS 102) in FC 06.8.1. CAC48 adopted the Note as follows:

“Except for use in composite/flavoured soybean beverages and soybean-based beverages conforming to the Regional Standard for Non-Fermented Soybean Products (Asia) (CXS 322R-2015) at 300 mg/kg, as bixin.”

27. It is noted that the Note should not include the words “as bixin,” and that these two words should be deleted. Therefore, CCFA56 should make the necessary correction by deleting the words “, as bixin” from Note 667.

RECOMMENDATIONS

28. CCFA56 is invited to:

- (i) note the information provided above;
- (ii) consider:
 - a. the replies from CCMAS44 regarding the NPC for nitrate and nitrite in specific food matrices, as well as other relevant information as outlined in paragraph 15;
 - b. the replies from CCNE12 regarding the appropriate FC for mixed zaatar as outlined in paragraph 22¹⁷;
 - c. the replies from CCASIA23 regarding the use of food additives and appropriate GSFA food categories for commodities conforming to standards established by CCASIA as outlined in paragraphs 16 – 20;
 - d. the corrections suggested by the Codex Secretariat outlined in paragraph 27.

¹⁴ REP18/CAC paragraph 95

¹⁵ REP23/NE paragraph 33, CX/NE 23/11/3 Add.1

¹⁶ REP24/FA paragraph 56i

¹⁷ The proposed food additive provisions in CXS 322R-2018 will be considered under Agenda Item 4(a).