



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-sixth Session

PROPOSED DRAFT NEW AND REVISED FOOD ADDITIVE PROVISIONS IN THE GSFA BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 100TH MEETING OF JECFA

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

Background

1. In the Physical Working Group (PWG) on the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA, CXS 192-1995) reporting to CCFA50(2018)¹, the PWG Chair noted that discussions in the GSFA EWG had highlighted inefficiencies in the Committee's procedure for considering the adoption of Table 3 provisions for general use in foods that are not listed in the Annex to Table 3 and that:

- do not have corresponding Codex commodity standards; or
- have corresponding commodity standards that already provide general authorizations for all Table 3 additives, or for all additives (or all Table 3 additives) with a specified functional class.

2. The PWG agreed on the need to examine criteria that would allow the automatic inclusion of such provisions into Table 3 of the GSFA at Step 2 of the Step Process. The PWG developed recommendations on this matter for consideration by CCFA50.

3. CCFA50² endorsed the following criteria for the automatic inclusion of a Table 3 provision for the additive into the Step process at Step 2:

- a JECFA ADI of "not specified" and full JECFA specifications; and
- an INS name, number and functional class.

4. CCFA51(2019)³ noted that a proposed draft Table 3 provision at Step 3 would be included in Agenda Item 3(a); Matters of interest arising from FAO/WHO and from the meeting of the joint FAO/WHO expert committee on food additives (JECFA) document, when JECFA publishes an ADI of "not specified" and provides full specifications for the additive provided the additive has an INS name, number and functional class.

5. Following CCFA51, the recommendations arising from the 87th, 89th, 92nd, 95th, 96th, 97th and 99th meetings of JECFA were considered by CCFA52(2021), CCFA53(2023), CCFA54(2024) and CCFA55(2025).

6. Based on the recommendations of the 92nd JECFA meeting, CCFA53⁴ agreed to include riboflavin, synthetic (INS 101(i)); riboflavin 5'-phosphate sodium (INS 101(ii)); riboflavin from *Bacillus subtilis* (INS 101(iii)); and riboflavin from *Ashbya gossypii* (INS 101(iv)) in Table 3 and to make the corresponding amendments to Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA.

Relevant recommendations from the 100th Meeting of JECFA⁵ and the pertinent provisions in the GSFA

7. Based on the evaluations conducted at the 100th meeting of JECFA, four food additives were identified as meeting the criteria described in paragraph 3 for consideration under the procedure for automatic inclusion into Table 3 of the GSFA.

¹ CCFA50/CRD02

² REP18/FA paragraph 59

³ REP19/FA paragraph 130ii

⁴ REP23/FA paragraph 29ii, iv, Appendix VI, Part B.2, B3 and Appendix VII, Part A

⁵ [https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-\(jecfa\)/publications](https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-expert-committee-on-food-additives-(jecfa)/publications),
<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd8076en>

Ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304) and ascorbyl stearate (INS 305)

8. JECFA withdrew the previously established ADI of 0–1.25 mg/kg bw for ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304) and ascorbyl stearate (INS 305) and established a group ADI “not specified” for ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304), ascorbyl stearate (INS 305), or their sum.

9. JECFA also revised the specifications for ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304) and noted the need to revise the specifications for ascorbyl stearate (INS 305).

10. In the GSFA, these additives are listed individually under the group header Ascorbyl Esters, for which 46 adopted provisions currently exist across various food categories, including those listed in the Annex to Table 3. An additional seven draft provisions are also under consideration in the Step process.

Glycolipids (INS 246)

11. JECFA established an ADI “not specified” and new specifications for glycolipids (INS 246). At present, there are no adopted or draft provisions for glycolipids (INS 246) in the GSFA.

Low-acyl clarified gellan gum (INS 418(ii))

12. The 87th meeting of JECFA⁶ established an ADI “not specified” for low-acyl clarified gellan gum. CCFA54⁷ assigned INS 418(ii) to this food additive. The 100th meeting of JECFA later established specifications for low-acyl clarified gellan gum (INS 418(ii)). At present, there are no adopted or draft provisions for low-acyl clarified gellan gum (INS 418(ii)) in the GSFA.

Recommendations

13. In line with the approach endorsed by CCFA51, and taking into account the relevant recommendations from the 100th meeting of JECFA, CCFA56 is invited to consider the following:

- (i) the provisions for the four food additives (INS 304, INS 305, INS 246 and INS 418(ii)) in Table 3 at Step 3 (see Annex 1)
- (ii) the impact on all provisions for ASCORBYL ESTERS in Tables 1 and 2 (see Annex 2) when the provisions contained in Annex 1 to the document are adopted, noting that:
 - a. numerical maximum levels are established for these Table 1 and 2 provisions;
 - b. Notes restricting the use of the food additives (e.g., XS notes) are attached to some provisions; and
 - c. under normal procedure, Table 3 additives do not have provisions in Tables 1 and 2 in food categories that are not listed in the Annex to Table 3 of the GSFA.

⁶ <https://apps.who.int/food-additives-contaminants-jecfa-database/Home/Chemical/2056>

⁷ REP24/FA appendix X

Annex 1

GENERAL STANDARD FOR FOOD ADDITIVES
NEW FOOD ADDITIVE PROVISIONS
(at Step 3)

INS No	Additive	Functional Class	Step	Specific allowance in the following commodity standards
304	Ascorbyl palmitate	Antioxidant	3	
305	Ascorbyl stearate	Antioxidant	3	
246	Glycolipids	Preservative	3	
418(ii)	Low-acyl clarified gellan gum	Gelling agent Stabilizer Thickener	3	

Annex 2

AFFECTED PROVISIONS IN TABLES 1 AND 2 OF THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR FOOD ADDITIVES**ASCORBYL ESTERS**

INS 304, Ascorbyl palmitate, Functional Class: Antioxidant

INS 305, Ascorbyl stearate, Functional Class: Antioxidant

FoodCat No*	FoodCategory	Max Level (mg/kg)	Notes	Year Adopted
01.3.2	Beverage whiteners	80	10, XS252, XS250	2021
01.5.1	Milk powder and cream powder (plain)	500	10, 545,XS290	2023
01.5.2	Milk and cream powder analogues	80	10	2001
01.6.1	Unripened cheese	500	10, XS273, XS221	2021
01.6.2.1	Ripened cheese, includes rind	500	10, 112, XS208, XS263, XS264, XS265, XS266, XS267, XS268, XS269, XS270, XS271, XS272, XS274, XS276, XS277, XS278, XS283	2021
01.7	Dairy-based desserts (e.g. pudding, fruit or flavoured yoghurt)	500	2, 10, XS243	2024
02.1.1	Butter oil, anhydrous milkfat, ghee	500	10, 171	2006
02.1.2	Vegetable oils and fats	500	10, 511, XS33, XS325R	2023
02.1.3	Lard, tallow, fish oil, and other animal fats	500	10, 526	2021
02.2.2	Fat spreads, dairy fat spreads and blended spreads	500	10	2006
02.3	Fat emulsions mainly of type oil-in-water, including mixed and/or flavoured products based on fat emulsions	500	10	2001
02.4	Fat-based desserts excluding dairy-based dessert products of food category 01.7	80	10	2001

FoodCat No*	FoodCategory	Max Level (mg/kg)	Notes	Year Adopted
03.0	Edible ices, including sherbet and sorbet	200	10, 15	2001
04.1.2.2	Dried fruit	80	10	2001
04.1.2.9	Fruit-based desserts, including fruit-flavoured water-based desserts	500	2, 10	2001
04.2.2.2	Dried vegetables (including mushrooms and fungi, roots and tubers, pulses and legumes, and aloe vera), seaweeds, and nuts and seeds	80	10, 613	2024
05.0	Confectionery	500	10, 15, 375, XS86, XS105, XS141 & XS309R	2017
06.3	Breakfast cereals, including rolled oats	200	10	2001
06.4.3	Pre-cooked pastas and noodles and like products	500	10, 211	2012
06.5	Cereal and starch based desserts (e.g. rice pudding, tapioca pudding)	500	2, 10	2001
06.8.1	Soybean-based beverages	500	187, 643	2025
07.0	Bakery wares	1,000	10, 15	2003
08.4	Edible casings (e.g. sausage casings)	5,000	10	2001
09.2.1	Frozen fish, fish fillets, and fish products, including mollusks, crustaceans, and echinoderms	1,000	10, 392, XS36, XS92, XS95, XS190, XS191, XS312, XS315	2017
09.2.2	Frozen battered fish, fish fillets, and fish products, including mollusks, crustaceans, and echinoderms	1,000	10	2001

FoodCat No*	FoodCategory	Max Level (mg/kg)	Notes	Year Adopted
10.4	Egg-based desserts (e.g. custard)	500	2, 10	2001
11.4	Other sugars and syrups (e.g. xylose, maple syrup, sugar toppings)	200	10	2003
12.2 ⁸	Herbs, spices, seasonings and condiments (e.g. seasoning for instant noodles)	500	10, XS326, XS327, XS328, XS342, XS343, XS344, XS345, XS347, XS351, XS352, XS353	2025
12.4	Mustards	500	10	2003
12.5	Soups and broths	200	10	2001
12.6.1	Emulsified sauces and dips (e.g. mayonnaise, salad dressing, onion dip)	500	10, 15	2001
12.6.2	Non-emulsified sauces (e.g. ketchup, cheese sauce, cream sauce, brown gravy)	500	10, XS306	2023
12.6.3	Mixes for sauces and gravies	200	10	2001
12.6.4	Clear sauces (e.g. fish sauce)	200	10, XS302	2018
12.7	Salads (e.g. macaroni salad, potato salad) and sandwich spreads excluding cocoa- and nut-based spreads of food categories 04.2.2.5 and 05.1.3	200	10	2001
13.1.1	Infant formulae	10	187, 381, 551	2023
13.1.2	Follow-up formulae	50	https://www.fao.org/gsfaonline/reference/notes.html?id=551-note551 187, 315, 381, 551	2023
13.1.3	Formulae for special medical purposes for infants	10	187, 381, 551	2023

⁸ As FC 12.2.1 (Herbs and spices (EXCLUDING SPICES)) is included in the Annex to Table 3 and 12.2.2 (Seasonings and condiments) is not included in the Annex to Table 3, further examination of this provision will be needed.

FoodCat No*	FoodCategory	Max Level (mg/kg)	Notes	Year Adopted
13.2	Complementary foods for infants and young children	200	15, 187	2018
13.3	Dietetic foods intended for special medical purposes (excluding products of food category 13.1)	10	187, 560	2023
13.4	Dietetic formulae for slimming purposes and weight reduction	500	10	2005
13.5	Dietetic foods (e.g. supplementary foods for dietary use) excluding products of food categories 13.1 - 13.4 and 13.6	500	10	2009
13.6	Food supplements	500	10	2003
14.1.4	Water-based flavoured drinks, including "sport," "energy," or "electrolyte" drinks and particulated drinks	1,000	10, 15	2001
15.1	Snacks - potato, cereal, flour or starch based (from roots and tubers, pulses and legumes)	200	10	2001
15.2	Processed nuts, including coated nuts and nut mixtures (with e.g. dried fruit)	200	10	2001

*Food categories that do not appear in the Annex to Table 3 are in grey highlight