

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 2

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Eighty-fourth Session

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

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CRITICAL REVIEW - PART II¹

Note: For general information about the critical review and the critical review for CCASIA22, CCLAC22, CCFH53, CCNASWP16, CCRVDF26, and CCNFSDU43, please see CX/EXEC 23/84/2.

Structure

1. General information on the Committee and Session
2. Overall comments (Secretariat / Chairperson)
3. Status of work items (Overview)
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Appendix 1: Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA53)

¹ This document addresses CCFA53

Appendix 1

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)		
Host	China	Chairperson	Dr Yongxiang Fan
Session reported on	CCFA53	27 – 31 March 2023	
Next Session	CCFA54	22 – 26 April 2024	
Report	REP23/FA		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat’s comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 was successfully conducted as a physical session with broadcast. The session was constructive and productive as all agenda items were thoroughly discussed and consensually concluded despite a very full agenda and big workload. Two Physical working groups (PWGs) meetings were held immediately prior to the session and two in-session working group meeting were held during the lunch time. All these meetings helped consensus building and ensuring a successful CCFA53.</p> <p>CCFA53 also celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) with two events: a reception for all delegations that underscored with speeches and cultural displays the importance of Codex work; and a panel discussion that drew on the expert work of FAO/WHO on food additives over the past 60 years and showcased how Codex work in this field is also critical to food safety and industry.</p>
<p>Chairperson’s comments:</p> <p>It was the first physical reunion of CCFA after the COVID-19 pandemic. The main focus of the CCFA work continues to be the GSFA, in particular the completion of consideration of the draft provisions and the alignment of the food additive provisions of commodity standards with those in the GSFA. Other work related to the GSFA includes: i) preparation of the priority list of substances to be evaluated by JECFA, ii) the adoption of the specifications for quality and purity prepared by JECFA, and iii) the update (amendments) of the <i>Class Names and the International Numbering Systems of Food Additives</i> (CXG 36-1989). It has been very delightful to see that after intensive communication and negotiation within and beyond CCFA plenary, the committee reached consensus on issues related to provisions for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1 “Fluid milk (plain)” and food additives in wine production. In order to improve the management of the CCFA work, a discussion paper to identify the outstanding issues with respect to avoiding future divergence between the GSFA, commodity standards and other texts will be provided to CCFA54 for consideration. Due to the complexity, the proposal on developing a Codex standard for yeast will need more work and communication on the scope of standard.</p> <p>In addition, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the CAC, two special activities were held: a panel discussion inviting delegates to many CCFA sessions to share their experience and stories in CCFA, and a workshop held by Government of Hong Kong, SAR to highlight the importance of Codex work to ensure food safety and fair food trade practices in the world. The culture displays in the welcome reception were very impressive and received appreciation from the delegates. CCFA’s current work is manageable and focuses on the GSFA, which when completed will become the “single authoritative Codex Standard for the use of food additives”. In addition to the outstanding provisions of the GSFA, the current CCFA backlog includes the alignment of the food additive provisions of commodity standards (existing commodity standards developed by non-active committees, some new commodity standards,). In its next session, CCFA will efficiently keep moving on the discussion on GSFA, alignment, INS, priority list, etc.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission	
1. Inclusion of the provision for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1 in the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995)	Adoption at Step 8
2. Inclusion of the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3 (CXS 192-1995)	Adoption at Steps 5/8 and 8
3. Inclusion of the provisions for riboflavin, synthetic (INS 101(i)), riboflavin 5'-phosphate sodium (INS 101(ii)), riboflavin from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (INS 101(iii)), riboflavin from <i>Ashbya gossypii</i> (INS 101(iv)) and spirulina extract (INS 134) in Table 3 (CXS 192-1995)	Adoption at Steps 5/8
4. Proposed draft revision of the <i>Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives</i> (CXG 36-1989)	Adoption at Steps 5/8
5. Proposed draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives (CXM 6-2021)	Adoption at Steps 5/8
6. Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995) and revisions to adopted provisions	Adoption
7. Inclusion of mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (INS 471) in FC 02.1.2 (CXS 192-1995)	Adoption
8. Inclusion of the provisions for polyglycerol esters of fatty acids (INS 475), sorbitan esters of fatty acids (INS 491-495), and stearyl lactylates (INS 481(i), 482(i)) in FC 02.1.2 (CXS 192-1995)	Adoption
9. Revision to Notes 488 and 502 (CXS 192-1995)	Adoption
10. Deletion of Note 301 from the provision for BENZOATES in FC 14.1.4 (CXS 192-1995)	Adoption
11. Inclusion of riboflavin from <i>Ashbya gossypii</i> (INS 101(iv)) in the group header RIBOFLAVINS in Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995)	Adoption
12. Revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of seven standards for CCMMP, three standards for CCPFV, six standards for CCNFSDU, one standard for CCAFRICA, one standard for CCEURO, and one set of guidelines for CCNFSDU (CXS 192- 1995)	Adoption
13. Revisions to the adopted provisions for sweeteners in different FCs (CXS 192-1995)	Adoption
14. Revised food-additive sections of seven standards for CCMMP, three standards for CCPFV, six standards for CCNFSDU, one standard for CCAFRICA, one standard for CCEURO and one set of guidelines for CCNFSDU – (CXS 192-1995)	Adoption
15. Revocation of food additive provisions of the GSFA	Revocation
16. Discontinuation of draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA	Discontinuation
17. New proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA	Approval
18. Priority List of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA	Approval
For information	
19. Provision of requested data and information to JECFA	Request to stakeholders

20. Actions required as a result of changes to the status of ADI and other recommendations of the 92nd and 95th JECFA meetings	Ongoing work
21. Discussion paper to identify the outstanding issues with respect to avoiding future divergence between the GSFA, commodity standards and other texts	Drafting
22. Discussion paper on the development of a standard for yeast	Re-drafting

4. Specific comments

<p>1. Inclusion of the provision for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1 in the <i>General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 171, Appendix VI, Part G</i></p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption at Step 8 the provision for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>In the spirit of negotiation, there have been several informal discussions among the Members after CCFA52 and during CCFA53. Despite the divergence of opinions received before the plenary, CCFA53 worked intensively on this issue and finally reached consensus on the maximum levels (MLs) and the Notes. The impact of this achievement is remarkable, and the contribution and efforts from the delegates are admirable.</p>
<p>2. Inclusion of the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3 (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 190(i),(ii) Appendix VI, Part H</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA49 (2017) had discontinued work on the use of food additives in wine due to the lack of consensus on the text of the Note to be associated with the food additive provisions belonging to the functional classes: acidity regulators, stabilizers and antioxidants for FC 14.2.3 "Grape wines". CCFA52 had requested a further analysis of the issue and recommendations for consideration by CCFA53. A compromised text that aimed to address the key concerns that had been raised in the previous discussions of CCFA was presented to and discussed by CCFA53.</p> <p>Following a constructive discussion, CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8 and Step 8 the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3 together with the revised note "The maximum level of the additive in grape wine set as Good Manufacturing Practice must not result in (i) the modification of the natural and essential characteristics of the wine and (ii) a substantial change in the composition of the wine. Some Codex Members further specify the use to be consistent with the Code of Oenological Practice of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV)".</p> <p>CCFA53 also agreed to inform CCEXEC and CAC46 that the compromised Note represented an exceptional approach and should not be considered as a precedent in any other circumstances as it was specific to the unique situation involving use of these additives in grape wine. CCFA53 acknowledged the advice of CCEXEC that references to external organizations in Codex texts should be kept to a minimum and further observed that circumstances like those that gave rise to this Note were unlikely to occur in the future since there were no other instances where an external organization was cited in the descriptor of a FC in the GSFA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>CCFA49 (2017) decided to discontinue the work on the use of food additives in wine due to the lack of consensus on the text of Notes. CCFA52 (2022) agreed to reopen the discussion on this issue. After discussion in the plenary, CCFA53 agreed to adopt the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3 together with the revised notes and forward to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8 and Step 8.</p> <p>CCFA would like to acknowledge the advice of CCEXEC that references to external organizations in Codex texts should be kept to a minimum and further observed that circumstances like those that gave rise to this note, were unlikely to occur in the future since there were no other instances where an external organization was cited in the descriptor of a FC in the GSFA with the exception of OIV.</p>
<p>3. Inclusion of the provisions for riboflavin, synthetic (INS 101(i)), riboflavin 5'-phosphate sodium (INS 101(ii)), riboflavin from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (INS 101(iii)), riboflavin from <i>Ashbya</i></p>

<p><i>gossypii</i> (INS 101(iv)) and spirulina extract (INS 134) in Table 3 (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 29(iii), (iv), Appendix VI, Parts B.3 and B.4</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8 the inclusion of the provisions for riboflavin, synthetic (INS 101(i)); riboflavin 5'- phosphate sodium (INS 101(ii)); riboflavin from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (INS 101(iii)); riboflavin from <i>Ashbya gossypii</i> (INS 101(iv)) and spirulina extract (INS 134) in Table 3 of CXS 192-1995.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>As a result of the JECFA evaluation, CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8 the inclusion of the provisions for riboflavin, synthetic (INS 101(i)); riboflavin 5'- phosphate sodium (INS 101(ii)); riboflavin from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (INS 101(iii)); riboflavin from <i>Ashbya gossypii</i> (INS 101(iv)) and spirulina extract (INS 134) in Table 3 of CXS 192-1995. The work is manageable.</p>
<p>4. Proposed draft revision of the <i>Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives</i> (CXG 36-1989), Paragraph 130(i), Appendix X</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward for adoption at Step 5/8 to CAC46 the proposed draft amendments to the INS.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The INS system is one of the 4 pillars of CCFA. It is a routine task and the work is manageable.</p>
<p>5. Proposed draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives, Paragraph 33, Appendix III</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8 the full specifications for food additives and make the consequential amendments to the <i>List of Codex Specifications for Food Additives</i> (CXA 6-2021). <u>Corrigendum:</u> The specifications for Phospholipase A2 from <i>Streptomyces violaceoruber</i> expressed in <i>S. violaceoruber</i> should be changed from revised specifications (R) to new specifications (N).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The adoption of food additive specifications prepared by JECFA is one of the key and regular task of CCFA. The discussion and work on this agenda item are manageable.</p>
<p>6. Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995) and revisions to adopted provisions, Paragraphs 117(i) and 97, Appendix VI, Parts D and E.1- E.11</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward for adoption at Step 8 and Step 5/8 the draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA. CCFA53 also recommended for adoption the revised descriptors to FCs 12.2.1 and 12.2.2.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The GSFA being one of the pillars of CCFA, before the plenary, a physical working group of the GSFA was held to discuss the maximum use levels for individual food additives. It is a big progress to adopt hundreds of provisions, makes it more convincing that when completed, and GSFA will be the only reference on food additives in the Codex system.</p>
<p>7. Inclusion of mono- and diglycerides of fatty Acids (INS 471) in FC 02.1.2 (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 11, Appendix VI, Part A.1</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5/8 the proposed draft provision for mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (INS 471) in FC 02.1.2.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5/8 the proposed draft provision for mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (INS 471) in FC 02.1.2.</p>

This was a matter referred by CCFO27, and CCFA53 agreed to forward the proposed draft provision for mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (INS 471) in FC 02.1.2 to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8. The work is manageable and there is nothing special to add.

8. Inclusion of the provisions for polyglycerol esters of fatty acids (INS 475), sorbitan esters of fatty acids (INS 491-495) and stearyl lactylates (INS 481(i), 482(i) in FC 02.1.2 (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 13(i), Appendix VI, Part A.2

Secretariat's comments:

CCFA53 agreed to forward for adoption by CAC46 the Notes 356, XS33, XS325R, B1 for the provisions for polyglycerol esters of fatty acids (INS 475), sorbitan esters of fatty acids (INS 491-495), and stearyl lactylates (INS 481(i), 482(i)) in FC 02.1.2 Vegetable oils and fats, respectively.

Chairperson's comments:

This was a matter referred by CCFA52 as an outstanding issue related to the update of the GSFA. The work is manageable and there is nothing special to add.

9. Revision to Notes 488 and 502 (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 13(ii) and Appendix VI, Part A.3

Secretariat's comments:

CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 adoption of the amended Notes 488 and 502 by removing potassium silicate (INS 560).

Chairperson's comments:

It was a matter referred by CCFA52 as an outstanding issue related to the update of the GSFA. The revision improved the consistence of GSFA. The work is manageable and there is nothing special to add.

10. Deletion of Note 301 from the provision for BENZOATES in FC 14.1.4 (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 29(i), Appendix VI, Part B.1

Secretariat's comments:

CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption the revised provision for BENZOATES in FC 14.1.4 by deleting Note 301.

Chairperson's comments:

The provision for BENZOATES in FC 14.1.4 had been discussed for several years and with the completion of the JECFA evaluation, it was proposed to delete Note 301, "an interim maximum level until CCFA53". Since the new group ADI was higher than the previous one, it did not require any change to the interim MLs. CCFA53 adopted this proposal. The revision improved the consistence of GSFA. The work is manageable and there is nothing special to add.

11. Inclusion of riboflavin from *Ashbya gossypii* (INS 101(iv)) in the group header RIBOFLAVINS in Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 29(ii), Appendix VI, Part B.2

Secretariat's comments:

CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption the Inclusion of riboflavin from *Ashbya gossypii* (INS 101(iv)) in the group header RIBOFLAVINS in Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA.

Chairperson's comments:

As a result of the JECFA evaluation, CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption the Inclusion of riboflavin from *Ashbya gossypii* (INS 101(iv)) in the group header RIBOFLAVINS in Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA. The work is manageable, and there is nothing special to add.

12. Revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of seven standards for CCMMP, three standards for CCPFV, six standards for CCNFSDU, one standard for CCAFRICA, one standard for CCEURO, and one set of guidelines for CCNFSDU (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 67, Appendix VI,

Secretariat's comments:

CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption all food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of seven standards for CCMMP, three standards for CCPFV, six standards for CCNFSDU, one standard for CCAFRICA, one standard for CCEURO, and one set of guidelines for CCNFSDU.

<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Alignment is another pillar of CCFA. A physical working group on alignment of food additive provisions in the Codex commodity standards and in the GSFA was held since the workload of alignment work has been increasing year after year. It is noted that with the completion of alignment work this year, the waiting list is still long. To improve the management of the alignment work, CCFA53 agreed that a discussion paper to identify the outstanding issues with respect to avoiding future divergence between the GSFA, commodity standards and other texts to be drafted by China, Canada, the European Union and other Members who would have interest in this work.</p>
<p>13. Revisions to the adopted provisions for sweeteners in different FCs (CXs 192-1995), Paragraph 108(i), Appendix VI</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption the revised provisions for sweeteners in different FCs.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This work related to all adopted food additives provisions in the GSFA for additives with sweetener function, but not associated with Note 161. It was important to finalize the work related to Note 161. There is nothing special to add.</p>
<p>14. Revised food-additive sections of seven standards for CCMMP, three standards for CCPFV, six standards for CCNFSDU, one standard for CCAFRICA, one standard for CCEURO and one set of guidelines for CCNFSDU (CXs 192-1995), Paragraphs 67, Appendix V</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption all food additive provisions in various commodity standards due to alignment.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Alignment is an important and routine work in CCFA, as explained in part 12, and there's nothing special to be added here.</p>
<p>15. Revocation of relevant food additive provisions of the GSFA, Paragraphs 29(iv), 108(ii), 116 and 117(ii), Appendix VII</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for revocation the provisions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. RIBOFLAVINS in relevant FCs; ii. Sweeteners in different FCs; iii. ORTHO-PHENOLS in FC 14.1.2; and iv. Food additives of the GSFA.
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This is the result of GSFA discussion, there's nothing special to add and the work is manageable.</p>
<p>16. Discontinuation of draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA, Paragraph 117(iii), Appendix VIII</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 a number of draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions for discontinuation in the GSFA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This is the result of GSFA discussions, and there's nothing special to add and the work is manageable.</p>
<p>17. New proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA, Paragraph 117(iv), Appendix IX</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to forward to CAC46 a number of food-additive provisions for inclusion in the GSFA.</p>

<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This appendix will be discussed in the next GSFA EWG and CCFA54, following the step process. There's nothing special to add, and the work is manageable.</p>
<p>18. Priority List of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA, Paragraph 143(i), Appendix XI</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>In addition to asking the Codex Secretariat to issue a CL requesting information and opinions on the Priority List of Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA, CCFA53 agreed to forward for endorsement by CAC46 the revised Priority List of Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA is the fourth pillar of CCFA. More and more substances have been put on the priority list which need to be further prioritized considering the limited resources of JECFA. With the confirmation from the sponsors of data availability, the priority list has become more promising.</p>
<p>19. Provision of data and information to JECFA, Paragraph 80(ii)</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed to inform CAC46 about the significance of stakeholders providing JECFA with precise and reliable data and information, and to encourage stakeholders to fulfil the requirements in this regard. This is necessary to ensure that JECFA's assessment can be appropriately applied to the risk management decisions of CCFA when setting maximum use levels for food additive provisions in the GSFA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>As explained in section 18, the work is manageable. The contribution from the stakeholders provided a good basis to the excellent work of JECFA and therefore was very essential to the efficient discussion on food additive provisions in GSFA.</p>
<p>20. Actions as a result of changes to the status of ADI and other recommendations of the 92nd and 95th JECFA meetings, Paragraph 28, Appendix II</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 endorsed the summary of the final recommendations arising from the 92nd and 95th JECFA meetings.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This is a routine work of CCFA. There's nothing special to be added, and the work is manageable.</p>
<p>21. Discussion paper to identify the outstanding issues with respect to avoiding future divergence between the GSFA, commodity standards and other texts, Paragraph 46</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA53 agreed that a discussion paper outlining the issues still needing attention in order to prevent future inconsistencies between the GSFA, commodities standards, and other texts be drafted and included on the agenda for CCFA54.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>As mentioned in the general comments and section 12, it is necessary for CCFA to examine the mechanism and procedures for discussing food additive provisions in CCFA and other committees. While the workload of alignment of food additive provisions in GSFA and commodity standards was heavy, the current mode of work in CCFA and other committees has given rise to the risk of generating more inconsistency of food additive provisions in the GSFA and new/revised commodity standards, which has made the waiting list of alignment growing and everlasting. CCFA53 suggested to look at the current mechanism, learn from other general subject committees, explore ways to modify the procedures and to solve this problem once and for all.</p>
<p>22. Discussion paper on the development of a standard for yeast, Paragraph 195</p>

Secretariat's comments:

CAC44 had recommended that a discussion paper on the development of a standard for yeast be presented to CCFA, which could then take a decision on such a work proposal. A discussion paper was presented to CCFA53. Following a constructive discussion, CCFA53 agreed to that a revised discussion paper be drafted and included on the agenda of CCFA54.

Chairperson's comments:

Due to the complexity of this work, CCFA53 did not reach consensus on the scope of this standard. However, CCFA53 agreed, in a constructive perspective, to involve the Members and Observers who have interest in this work and revise the discussion paper, and to include this item on the agenda of CCFA54.