

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda item 3.2

CX/EXEC 26/90/3 Add.1
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Ninetieth Session
WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
29 June – 3 July 2026

CRITICAL REVIEW - PART II

(standards for adoption and monitoring of work progress - CCFO, CCMAS)

Note: For general information about the critical review as well as the critical review for CCSCH8 and CCFH55, please see CX/EXEC 26/90/3. For the critical review for CCRVDF28 and CCFA56, please see CX/EXEC 26/90/3 Add.2. For the critical review for CCFL49, CCFFP37 and other committees with standards having fulfilled endorsement requirements, please see CX/EXEC 26/90/3 Add.3.

Structure of appendices

1. The work of the different committees is addressed in separate appendices.
2. The current structure of the appendices for each committee is as follows:
 - A. General information on the committee and session
 - B. Status of work items (Overview) with explanatory notes as relevant from the Codex Secretariat and Chairperson's comments on specific work items
 - C. Chairperson's comments on the overall work of the committee in light of the purpose of the critical review

List of appendices

Appendix 1: Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, 29th session (CCFO29)

Appendix 2: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, 45th session (CCMAS45)

Appendix 1

A. General information on the committee and session

Committee	Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)		
Host	Malaysia	Chairperson	Zailina Binti Abdul Majid
Session reported on	CCFO29	9 - 13 February 2026	
Next session	CCFO30	20 - 24 March 2028	
Report	<u>REP26/FO</u>		

B. Status of work items (Overview)

Existing work item(s) for decision by the Commission (adoption, revocation, discontinuation)							
Topic	Job number	Target year	Recommendation of the committee	Status of endorsement (where applicable)	Scientific advice (Available, on track, delayed, or N/A)	Reference	Explanatory notes (if any)
1. Amendments / revisions to the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes in the <i>Code of practice for the storage and transport of edible fats and oils in bulk</i> (CXC 36-1987)	-	-	Adoption	-	-	REP26/FO paragraph 108(i) and Appendix IV (Part 1)	In order to address the concern that the nature of the mineral oil had not been specified clearly, CCFO29 added the descriptor “highly refined food-grade” to both “mineral oil, high viscosity (CAS number 8012-95-1)” and “mineral oil, medium viscosity” in the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes, to clearly distinguish these substances from non-food-grade mineral oils that contain certain genotoxic carcinogens.
2. Standard for microbial omega-3 oils	N06-2024	CCFO30	Adoption at Step 5	Food additive, food labelling and methods of analysis provisions pending endorsement by	-	REP26/FO paragraph 82(i) and Appendix III (Part 1)	CCFO requested CCFA to advise on the appropriate placement of microbial oils in the <i>General standard for food additives</i> (GSFA) Food Category (FC) system; and then endorse the food additives.

				CCFA, CCFL and CCMAS respectively.			The methods of analysis will be forwarded to CCMAS for endorsement and inclusion in the <i>Recommended methods of analysis and sampling</i> (CXS 234-1999). CCCF was also requested to consider extending the maximum levels (MLs) of arsenic and lead for edible fats and oils and the notes/remark associated with the arsenic ML to microbial omega-3 oils.
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Chairperson's comments on specific work items from the above in light of the purpose of the critical review

Topic 1: CCFO24 agreed to include mineral oil, high viscosity and mineral oil, medium viscosity in the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes, as they were evaluated by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), assigned acceptable daily intakes (ADIs) and specifications indicating that these were highly refined food-grade products and satisfied all four criteria for acceptable previous cargoes. These substances had also been assessed previously by JECFA as food additives (the substances were food-grade substances produced by highly refining steps) and are Codex permitted food additives. Noting information at CCFO29 that these two substances have been reported to contain certain genotoxic carcinogens arising from possible mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH) contamination, there was general support to add the descriptor "highly refined food-grade" to clearly distinguish these food-grade substances from non-food-grade mineral oils that contain certain genotoxic carcinogens. A Member Organisation expressed its reservation regarding the retention of these substances.

Topic 2: Microbial oil is new category of oils under CCFO work where currently edible fats and oils standards are grouped under vegetable oils (except olive oils), fish oils, animal fats and fat spreads. This new category reflects the need to review the definition and classification of edible fats and oils in CCFO standards as well as FCs in the GSFA, respectively. With the assistance of the Codex Secretariat, the CCFO Chair has sought guidance from the CCFA Chair prior to plenary to assist discussions. The discussions also highlighted the importance of safety aspects and specific quality parameters of the oils that are regulated as novel food in some countries. The WHO representative emphasized that safety aspects must be prioritized since there have been recent contamination incidents in infant formula. The current draft standard requires that microbial sources of omega-3 oil must either have a recognized history of safe use in producing such oils or, if new, be backed by sufficient scientific safety data and that final authorization rests with the competent authority in the country of retail sale.

Secretariat's comments

The work on microbial omega-3 oils, which can be considered as a new food source, raised fundamental issues for consideration, in this case the food categories used for food additives, that go beyond the commodity under discussion. This highlights the importance of an integrated and cross-cutting approach to new food sources and production systems, using all existing mechanisms in line with the recommendations of CAC, to ensure ongoing coherence across Codex texts.

Monitoring

Topic	Job number	Target year	Status (Step)	On track for completion?	Reference	Explanatory notes (if any)
3. Revisions to Codex standards on fats and	N05-2024	CCFO30	2/3	Yes	REP26/FO, paragraph 51(i-iii)	The draft revisions to the three standards were returned to Step 2/3 in light of the lack of

oils (<i>Standards for edible fats and oils not covered by individual standards</i> (CXS 19-1981); <i>fat spreads and blended spreads</i> (CXS 256-1999); <i>named animal fats</i> (CXS 211-1999)) to reduce <i>trans</i> -fatty acid (TFA) intake						consensus on how to reflect both the numerical limits for industrially produced <i>trans</i> -fatty acids (iTFA) and a provision requiring prohibition of the production of partially hydrogenated fats and oils (PHO) in the proposed draft revisions.
Chairperson's comments on specific work items(s) from the above in light of the purpose of the critical review CCFO29 had made solid technical progress; however, advancement was constrained by fundamental divergences, particularly on the proposed dual regulatory approach (i.e. iTFA limits and/or PHO prohibition), and its compatibility with the commodity standard format which was intended to define measurable product characteristics rather than prescribe regulatory measures. Unresolved definitions and enforcement limitations further impeded progress. The work also raised cross-cutting issues, notably with CCMAS on methods of analysis, and broader implications for Codex standard-setting principles for commodity standards. e.g. Compliance verification approaches using non-analytical tools alongside analytical might go beyond the CCFO mandate and might best be aligned with the wider Codex work on inspection and certification systems under CCFICS. It is noted that CCFICS guidelines address certification and inspection systems for trade facilitation applicable for competent authorities rather than requirements within commodity standards. Guidance from CCEXEC and CAC on the relevance of guidance on compliance-verification provisions within commodity standards and its connection to the work undertaken by CCFICS would be valuable to the work of CCFO.						
For information						
Topic	Reference		Explanatory notes (if any)			
4. Analysis by FAO of data and information on studies on the evolution of pyropheophytin "a" (PPP) and 1,2-diglycerides (1,2-DAG) in extra virgin olive oil (EVOO)	REP26/FO, paragraphs 125 and 126(i, iii)		FAO was requested undertake the analysis of the data and information collected on evaluation of PPP and 1,2-DAG quality parameters and to report its outcome to CCFO30 with a view to facilitate decision-making on the inclusion of PPP and DAG as quality parameters of EVOO along with other quality parameters including sensory in the <i>Standard for olive oil and olive pomace oil</i> (CXS 33-1981).			
5. Collection of global scientific data and information for olive oil	REP26/FO, paragraph 131(i-v)		This work is undertaken as a follow up on the CAC47 directive to launch a process to facilitate consideration of the decision tree on virgin olive oil described under footnote (c) in CXS 33-1981 while proceeding with the adoption of the revisions to the standard, to ensure that CXS 33-1981 can be inclusive of all authentic olive oils. As the data collection would likely take several years, CCEXEC is requested to note that the completion of work on footnote (c) would likely extend beyond CCFO30.			

6. Removal of ordinary virgin olive oil from CXS 33-1981	REP26/FO, paragraphs 133-135	CCFO27 (2021) agreed to temporarily retain ordinary virgin olive oil in CXS 33-1981 until CCF30 to allow Members and Observers sufficient time to complete the necessary scientific work to support decision-making. A final decision on the matter would need to be reached by CCFO30.
7. Proposals for new substances to be added to the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes (LOAPC)	REP26/FO, paragraph 108(ii-iii)	This is a standing Agenda Item for CCFO to continuously review and update the LOAPC based on the available scientific data and information.
8. Draft standard template for submission of proposals for amendments to the LOAPC	REP26/FO, paragraph 107(i-iii)	The draft template will be piloted in the circular letter (CL) issued to solicit proposals for new substances to be added to the LOAPC, and may be further improved based on experience and comments received. Once finalised it will be published as an information document on the Codex website.

Chairperson's comments on specific issues for monitoring and information in light of the purpose of the critical review

Topic 4: This agenda item on the potential use of PPP and 1,2-DAG as quality parameters for virgin olive oil highlighted both technical complexity and differing views among Members on procedural and scientific aspects. While substantial progress was made in data collection, divergence remained in the electronic working group (EWG) on whether the available dataset was sufficient for analysis and on the most appropriate mechanism to undertake this work. CCFO29 reached agreement on a hybrid approach i.e. allowing the initiation of data analysis while permitting submission of additional data from ongoing national studies. Members also agreed to formally request FAO to undertake the scientific evaluation, consistent with the decision of CCFO28, and to use the harmonized data collection protocol to ensure comparability of datasets. The hybrid approach demonstrated Members' flexibility and willingness to compromise, balancing the need for timely progress with inclusiveness for ongoing studies. Reliance on FAO for scientific advice introduced further considerations, including transparency and procedural requirements, resource implications, and extended timelines, which may affect overall progress where the outcome is expected to be considered by CCFO30. Overall, this issue remains technically complex and will require careful coordination to ensure both scientific robustness and timely advancement.

Topic 5: Pursuant to CAC47's decision to initiate a process to revisit footnote (c) of CXS 33-1981, while proceeding with the adoption of revisions to CXS 33-1981, and noting the follow-up discussions at CCNE12, CCFO29 considered how to operationalize data collection in a structured and inclusive manner, defining the types of data to be collected, mechanisms for submission, and a realistic timeline, recognizing that this work would likely extend beyond CCFO30. Members noted the technical rationale for revisiting footnote (c), and that current sterol thresholds might not fully reflect varietal and regional differences, which could result in misclassification of authentic oils. The multi-season nature of olive production was also recognized as a key consideration in establishing a feasible timeline for data collection. The establishment of an EWG, chaired by the Syrian Arab Republic with co-chairs from Australia, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the International Olive Council (IOC), reflected a collaborative and inclusive approach, effectively leveraging both Member contributions and IOC expertise.

Topic 6: The CCFO29 Chairperson reminded Members of the decision taken at CCFO27 regarding the category of ordinary virgin olive oil in CXS 33-1981, where CCFO27 agreed to temporarily retain the category while revisiting the earlier decision of CCFO26 to remove it. In this context, the importance of fulfilling the commitments made at CCFO27 to undertake the necessary scientific work ahead of CCFO30 was emphasized, with the expectation that Members will be adequately prepared to facilitate efficient deliberations and enable CCFO30 to reach a well-informed and timely final decision.

Topics 7 and 8: This is a standing agenda on CCFO to consider proposals on new substances to be added to the LOAPC. A few proposals were not able to be discussed in the EWG because of inadequate and no relevant information. This has delayed the discussion and work of the EWG. To address this, CCFO29 agreed for the standard template to be developed for submission of the required information. Once finalised, it will be published as an information document and be attached

in the CL on proposals on new substances to be added to the LOAPC. The standard template will be revised taking into account the comments made at CCFO29, piloted in the next CL and further improved based on experience and comments received.

C. Chairperson's comments on the overall work of the committee in light of the purpose of the critical review

The session was notably challenging, with a substantive and diverse agenda of high interest to Members and Observers. Despite the complexity of the matters considered, CCFO29 was able to hold meaningful and productive discussions on a range of important issues, including microbial omega-3 oils, olive oils, and the LOAPC. CCFO29 also succeeded in advancing its work by agreeing to initiate three new work proposals. On the proposal for new work for shea butter, upon the approval of new work by the CAC, the CCFO Chairperson welcomes input from CCAFRICA and/or Members of the region noting the existing *Regional standard for unrefined shea butter* (Africa) (CXS 325R-2017) and the importance to the region.

The strong commitment and dedication demonstrated by delegates, as well as the Chairs and co-chairs of EWGs and in-session working groups (IWGs) has become the vital factors in ensuring progress in the session. Similarly, for CCFO30, informal meetings intersessionally including the possibility of holding physical working group(s) and/or virtual working group(s) prior to CCFO30 will be crucial in making every effort towards reaching consensus and conclusion on CCFO agenda.

CCFO requested strong support from FAO to prioritize the CCFO request on analysis of data and information on PPP and 1,2-DAG in EVOO work and to present the outcome at CCFO30, ensuring timely advancement of CCFO activities.

Regarding microbial omega-3 oils that are part of new food sources and production systems (NFPS), concerns were raised on their safety aspects, particularly what is 'history of safe use'. In this context, there might be benefit in Codex considering harmonised international guidance on the safety assessment of novel foods / NFPS.

With regard to work on TFAs, which remains a matter of significant interest and priority for Members, progress might appear limited at this stage. CCFO has taken an important first step in advancing the discussion. The discussion highlighted the need to consider the extent to which compliance-verification approaches, encompassing both analytical and non-analytical tools, should be reflected in commodity standards, and how CCFICS guidelines could be more effectively addressed within such standards.

Guidance from CCEXEC and CAC on these would be valuable to the work of CCFO.

Secretariat's comments

The agenda for the next session of CCFO will be rather heavy as it will embrace most of the agenda items highlighted above. It is on this basis that it was recommended to leave open the possibility of holding physical working group(s) and/or virtual working group(s) prior to CCFO30 to discuss outstanding matters arising from EWGs as this will enable CCFO30 to complete its agenda within the time allocated for the session.

Appendix 2

A. General information on the committee and session

Committee	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)		
Host	Hungary	Chairperson	Dr Attila Nagy
		Vice-Chairperson	Dr Zsuzsa Farkas
Session reported on	CCMAS45	9 – 13 March 2026	
Next session	CCMAS46	10 – 14 May 2027	
Report	<u>REP26/MAS</u>		

B. Status of work items (Overview)

Existing work item(s) for decision by the Commission (adoption, revocation, discontinuation)							
Topic	Job number	Target year	Recommendation of the committee	Status of endorsement (where applicable)	Scientific advice (Available, on track, delayed, or N/A)	Reference	Explanatory notes (if any)
1. Methods of analysis / performance criteria / sampling plans for provisions in Codex standards	Ongoing	-	Adoption / revocation	-	-	REP26/MAS, paragraphs 47(i); 58(i); 65(ii)(a); 71(i);101(i) and Appendices II and III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The methods of analysis and performance criteria include those resulting from the ongoing review to ensure that CXS 234-1999 remains current and up-to-date. The methods of analysis endorsed in the draft standard for microbial omega-3 oils will only be included in CXS 234-1999 following the final adoption of the commodity standard to ensure that a relevant provision exists for the method. The methods of analysis in Appendix II Part 2 will be

							<p>revoked from respective commodity standards and not included in CXS 234-1999.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The method ISO 1871 for determining protein in teheha has been retyped as Type IV to ensure consistency with the decision to retain ISO 1871 as a type IV method for determining protein in quinoa. • The principles of the endorsed methods, as well as existing methods, will be reviewed by the EWG on the harmonization of names and format of CXS 234-1999 (see topic 2). • For CCASIA sampling plans, the decisions on producer's risk (PR) and consumer's risk (CR) were made by CCASIA, while CCMAS was responsible for verifying the accuracy of sampling plans and to ensure their alignment with guidance documents such as the <i>General guidelines on sampling</i> (CXG 50-2004). In general, this approach applies to the development and endorsement of sampling plans.
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Chairperson's comments on specific work items(s) from the above in light of the purpose of the critical review

At CCMAS45, in addition to reviewing the standards, consensus was reached on several important topics. To develop the database, it would be essential that the Codex standards - developed over several decades - use a harmonized terminology; thus, the first step was to standardize measurement techniques, drawing heavily

on a similar database, of the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO). In the process of validating these methods, we found a solution to a long-standing theoretical problem by organizing the first CCMAS proficiency test (PT). As a result, the scope of the relevant ISO standard will be expanded to include the testing of pseudo-cereals. Following extensive consultations and based on the detailed documentation provided by CCASIA, CCMAS45 approved the proposed sampling plan for the quality control of several food products of great importance to the region.

For information		
Topic	Reference	Explanatory notes (if any)
2. Information document on the harmonization of names and format for principles in CXS 234-1999	REP26/MAS, paragraph 168(i-ii) and Appendix VI	For publication on the Codex website. For use by CCMAS and other committees submitting methods of analysis for endorsement to ensure consistency in CXS 234-1999. This approach will also assist with the ongoing development of the database on methods of analysis and sampling.
3. Amendment of the Information document on criteria approaches for methods that use a “sum of components”	REP26/MAS, paragraph 19	The amendment is intended to ensure consistency between information in the document, and the data and calculations presented in method performance criteria tables, with a view to address challenges in interpreting and applying the method performance criteria when a ML was established as a “sum of components”.
4. Review of methods of analysis in CXS 234: selected methods in the fruit juices; cocoa products and the chocolate; sugars and honey; and natural mineral waters workable packages	REP26/MAS, paragraphs 71(ii), 74(i), 101(ii), 103 and Appendix IV	For consideration by CCMAS46. CCMAS will particularly require input from experts in the field of fruit juices and honey in particular to assist with defining authenticity and identifying related methods of analysis.
5. Methods of analysis for precautionary allergen labelling	REP26/MAS, paragraph 117 and Appendix V	For consideration by CCFL47. CCMAS provided a reply in response to CCFL’s request for advice on the availability of suitable analytical methods for determining allergenic protein in food. The list of methods in the reply are neither recommendations nor endorsements of food allergen methods, but included to simply facilitate CCFL’s deliberations on the development of guidance for precautionary allergen labelling. CCFL should not forward these methods to CCMAS for endorsement or include the methods as a reference in CCFL texts.
6. Review of sampling plans in CXS 234-1999	REP26/MAS, paragraph 136(i)	For consideration by CCMAS46. It was recalled that CCMAS42 (2023) requested Codex committees to review their sampling plans in light of the

		revised CXG 50-2004. However, this should not be taken to mean that a sampling plan should be developed for every provision in a commodity standard. Sampling plan(s) should be developed as necessary by the relevant committee, and if a committee considered it appropriate to develop sampling plans, they should do so in compliance with CXG 50-2004 and not by reference to it. The review of sampling plans would also contribute to the future development of the database on methods of analysis and sampling.
7. Draft guidance on sampling plans for bulk materials / heterogeneous lots including practical examples applicable to mycotoxins	REP26/MAS, paragraph 149(i-ii)	For consideration by CCMAS46. The work aims to provide general guidance. CCMAS does not intend to redesign sampling plans for mycotoxins for example. It is acknowledged that this remains the responsibility of CCCF. There will be continuous communication between CCMAS and CCCF as the work progresses.

Chairperson's comments on specific issues for monitoring and information in light of the purpose of the critical review

Further work is needed in several areas. Thus, CCMAS is continuing the review of testing methods for cocoa products and chocolate, sugars and honey, and fruit juices, and has also begun updating the testing methods for the next product category: natural mineral waters. Thanks to the increasingly close cooperation between Codex committees, CCMAS45 was able to prepare a response to CCFL's inquiry regarding allergen testing, thanks to the EWG's leaders and active Members. The detailed summary that had been prepared was of great help not only to CCFL, but also to all testing laboratories and, through them, to consumers affected by allergies. Further development of CXG 50-2004 and related materials is necessary, particularly given that the development of sampling plans remains the responsibility of the relevant commodity committees, while CCMAS provides statistical and methodological support. At the same time, it is appropriate to further develop general guidance on heterogeneous items, which complements rather than revises existing approaches. This work will continue at upcoming meetings; the necessary technical consultations are ongoing, and as part of this, CCMAS will this year be consulting with CCCF regarding mycotoxins.

C. Chairperson's comments on the overall work of the committee in light of the purpose of the critical review

The unfortunate events in the Middle East had a last-minute impact on CCMAS45. Since the meeting was originally planned as an in-person event, it was held in a hybrid format, allowing experts who were unable to attend due to travel difficulties to participate remotely. With the help of the Codex Secretariat and Hungarian colleagues, who assisted with the organization, we were able to resolve all technical difficulties, and the virtual meeting went off without a hitch.

It is very important that the Codex Secretariat was able to begin developing a database containing testing methods. Both personally and on behalf of the delegates, we have been eagerly awaiting the launch of this modern tool - which is now expected in the 21st century - alongside the PDF-based standard, as it will provide quick and accurate assistance in navigating the various examinations.