

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 11(b)

CX/FAC 02/13

January 2002

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Thirty-fourth Session

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 11-15 March 2002

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE IDENTITY AND PURITY OF FOOD ADDITIVES ARISING FROM THE 57TH JECFA MEETING

Governments and international organizations wishing to submit comments on the following subject matter are invited to do so **no later than 31 January 2002** as follows: Netherlands Codex Contact Point, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, P.O. Box 20401, 2500 E.K., The Hague, The Netherlands (Telefax: +31.70.378.6141; E-mail: info@codexalimentarius.nl, with a copy to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy (Telefax: +39.06.5705.4593; E-mail: Codex@fao.org).

BACKGROUND

1. Specifications for 342 food additives and flavouring agents were prepared at the 57th JECFA meeting (Rome, June 2001) and are published in Addendum 9 to the "Compendium of Food Additive Specifications" (FAO Food and Nutrition Paper 52-Add. 9 – distributed under separate cover¹). Of the 342 specifications, 25 (8 new) are for food additives with uses other than as flavouring agents, and 317 (193 new) are for flavouring agents. Specifications for 17 food additives and 276 flavouring agents were designated as "Full." The "Tentative" designation was assigned to specifications for 5 food additives and 41 flavouring agents. Existing full specifications for 2 additives and 1 flavouring agent were maintained.
2. Revised limits for arsenic and lead for 10 anticaking agents, 17 flavour enhancers, 11 sweetening agents, and 13 thickening agents were also established and published in Addendum 9. The Commission has previously adopted the complete specifications of 41 of these 51 additives as Codex Advisory Specifications. The Committee is being asked to review the newly established or revised limits for arsenic and lead for the 41 additives (see Annex 1) in order to recommend their adoption by the Commission as revised Codex Specifications, taking into account comments received.
3. Comments are also invited on the Principles Governing the Establishment and Revision of Specifications, which are elaborated in Section C of Food and Nutrition Paper 52 - Add. 9.

¹ Due to a delay caused by printing, in-time delivery of Addendum 9 is not guaranteed. Interested parties may download for review the document at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccfac34/FNP52a9preFinal.pdf>. Specifications are also accessible on-line at the following web-site: <http://www.fao.org/es/esn/Jecfa/database/cover.htm>

AD HOC WORKING GROUP

Consideration of Specifications

4. Comments will be considered at a meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Specifications established by the 33rd Session of the Committee. The agenda is included in Annex 1 (below). The specifications will be classified into Categories I, II, III, IV, or V, according to the established procedures.
5. An explanation of the five categories and a list of those specifications designated as "tentative" by JECFA are also provided in Annex 1. The tentative specifications will be assigned to Categories IV or V and are not expected to require discussion. The tentative specification for Tartaric, acetic, and fatty acid esters of glycerol, mixed (see Annex 1) was "Withdrawn" by JECFA, because it was combined with that of Diacetyltartaric and fatty acid esters of glycerol, which was revised. The tentative specification for Oxystearin was also withdrawn because of lack of response to the data call.
6. The existing full specifications for D-Tagatose, Sodium sulfate, and omega-6-Hexadecenelactone (JECFA no. 240, flavouring agent) were maintained. New specifications for Acetylated oxidized starch were integrated into the revised specifications for Modified starches.
7. The limits for lead and arsenic for 1 anticaking agents, 17 flavour enhancers, 10 sweetening agents, and 13 thickening agents were also established or revised at the 57th JECFA in accordance with the procedure and principles elaborated at the 53rd JECFA (Rome, June 1999) and stated in FAO Food and Nutrition Paper 52 – Add. 7. Only the limits for those additives (41, see Annex 1) whose complete specifications are already adopted as Codex Advisory Specifications will be open for discussion and categorized into either Category I or III. Those placed in Category I will be recommended for endorsement by the Committee as revisions to their existing Codex Specifications.

Consideration of Flavouring Agents

8. Of the 398 flavouring agent specifications established during the 57th JECFA, 122 are designated as tentative (see Annex 1) and will be assigned to Category IV or V. This leaves 275 for consideration during the session. To avoid protracted discussions, the Working Group will be asked to identify only those specifications that it considers unsuitable for recommendation as Codex Specifications (i.e., Category I). The JECFA numbers for all 398 substances are included in Annex 1.

Consideration of Principles

9. The Working Group will also have the opportunity to comment on the Principles Governing the Establishment and Revision of Specifications. See item VI of the Provisional Agenda in Annex 1, below.

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON SPECIFICATIONS
Saturday 9 March 2002, 9:00-11:00 hours

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- I. Introductions
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Comments from the Codex and JECFA Secretariats
- IV. Comments by the Working Group Chairman
- V. Review of Category Definitions (see below)
- VI. Review of Comments Submitted on the Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives (FAO FNP 52 - Add.9) arising from the 57th JECFA Meeting
 - A. Additives (uses other than as flavouring agents)
 - B. Revision of limits for heavy metals for certain additives
 - C. Specifications for certain flavouring agents
 - D. Principles governing the establishment and revision of specifications (see also Annex 1 of "Summary and Conclusions" of the 57th JECFA, Rome June 2001)
 - i. Inclusion of raw materials and manufacturing methods in specifications
 - ii. Revision of the Guide to specifications
 - iii. Modified starches
 - iv. General specifications and recommendations for enzyme preparations
 - v. Revision of metals limits for food additives
 - vi. Flavouring agents with minimum assay values less than 95%
 - vii. Flavouring agents with specifications designated as tentative at previous meetings
 - viii. Tentative specifications for food additives (uses other than as flavouring agents)
- VII. Other Business

SPECIFICATIONS CATEGORIES

- I. Specifications that are suitable for submission to the Commission for final adoption as Codex Specifications;
- II. Specifications that will be suitable for submission to the Commission for final adoption as Codex Specifications after editorial changes have been made;
- III. Specifications that require substantive changes before they are considered suitable as Codex Specifications and which should be held at Step 2 of the Specifications Procedures pending further advice from JECFA;
- IV. Specifications that have been revised by recent sessions of JECFA or that may be revised at the forthcoming session;
- V. Specifications that are incomplete and have been designated by JECFA as tentative (and, therefore, are not to be considered for adoption as Codex Specifications).

SPECIFICATIONS DESIGNATED AS TENTATIVE AT THE 57th JECFA (FNP 52 - ADD. 9, ROME 2001):

beta-Carotene from <i>Blakeslea trispora</i>
Monomagnesium phosphate
Natamycin

Quillaia extracts
Trisodium diphosphate

REVISION OF HEAVY METALS LIMITS FOR CERTAIN ADDITIVES AT THE 57th JECFA (SEE FNP 52 - ADD. 9):

Anticaking agents

Calcium aluminium silicate	Silicon dioxide (amorphous)
Ferrocyanides of Ca, K, & Na	Tricalcium phosphate
Magnesium silicates (synthetic)	Trimagnesium phosphate

Flavour enhancers

Calcium-5'-guanylate	Ethyl maltol
Calcium 5'-inosinate	L-Glutamic acid
Calcium 5'-ribonucleotides	5'-Guanylic acid
Calcium di-L-glutamate	5'-Inosinic acid
Dipotassium-5'-guanylate	Magnesium di-L-glutamate
Dipotassium-5'-inosinate	Monoammonium L-glutamate
Disodium-5'-guanylate	Monopotassium L-glutamate
Disodium-5'-inosinate	Monosodium L-glutamate
Disodium-5'-ribonucleotides	

Sweetening agents

Alitame	Saccharin and its Na, K, and Ca salts
Aspartame	Sorbitol
Cyclohexylsulfamic acid	Sorbitol syrup
Isomalt	Sucralose
Lactitol	Xylitol
Mannitol	

Thickening agents

Ammonium alginate	Powdered cellulose
Ethyl cellulose	Tara gum
Karaya gum	Tragacanth gum
Konjac flour	
Methyl cellulose	

JECFA NUMBERS FOR FLAVOURING AGENTS GIVEN FULL SPECIFICATIONS (including those for which an existing specification was maintained or a tentative designation removed) BY THE 57th JECFA (SEE FNP 52-ADD. 9):

10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 42, 51, 58, 64, 70, 72, 74, 77, 78, 95, 101, 107, 117, 119, 124, 170, 172, 178, 180, 184, 191, 205, 212, 240, 249, 260, 265, 266, 270, 273, 275, 304, 306, 308, 322, 323, 325, 326, 328, 330, 334, 344, 347, 348, 350, 352, 367, 370, 372, 374, 388, 401, 404, 416, 424, 428, 434, 440, 442, 448, 457, 461, 478, 510, 531, 543, 562, 580, 581, 591, 599, 645, 648, 652, 656, 660, 663, 666, 671, 672, 673, 676, 677, 681, 698, 711, 719, 720, 723, 724, 726, 732, 740, 741, 742, 743, 748, 749, 750, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 815, 816, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 863, 864, 865, 867, 868, 869, 871, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 907, 908, 912, 913, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953 (**Total 276**)

JECFA NUMBERS FOR FLAVOURING AGENTS GIVEN TENTATIVE SPECIFICATIONS (excluding those for which an existing tentative designation was maintained although no data were available) BY THE 57th JECFA (SEE FNP 52-ADD. 9):

111, 113, 115, 116, 182, 390, 490, 604, 609, 627, 642, 678, 729, 752, 814, 817, 847, 861, 862, 866, 870, 872, 909, 910, 911, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 937, 943, 954 (**Total 41**)

SPECIFICATIONS WITHDRAWN AT THE 57th JECFA:

Tartaric, acetic, and fatty acid esters glycerol, mixed.

Oxystearin