



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
Twenty-second Session

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC43, CAC44)

Matters for information

Adoption of standards¹

1. CAC43 adopted:
 - the standards for kiwifruit, fresh garlic, and ware potatoes at Step 8; and
 - the standard for yam at Step 5/8.
2. The adopted standards were published following endorsement of the provisions for labelling by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL).

Procedural aspects and meetings of subsidiary committees²

3. CAC43 recommended:
 - that CCEXEC80³ share its recommendations based on the report of the sub-committee on Codex and the Pandemic – Strategic Challenges and Opportunities with all subsidiary bodies for their information and further consideration as appropriate.
 - to all subsidiary bodies and Members and Observers to make full use of existing remote working mechanisms such as Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) and Circular Letters (CLs) and to plan their virtual committee meetings in such a manner as to optimize the possibility to complete their agendas.

Codex and the pandemic⁴

4. CAC44 recommended that Rule XI (7) and (8) continue to be interpreted in a manner that includes a virtual setting with respect to sessions of Codex Subsidiary Bodies including CCEXEC.

60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (1963-2023)⁵

5. CAC44 agreed that the celebration of the Codex 60th Anniversary would be a wonderful occasion to raise awareness about food safety and quality and encouraged all Members and Observers to use the opportunity of the Codex 60th Anniversary to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex and to engage high level political support for Codex work.

¹ REP20/CAC, paragraphs 59, 61, 63, 65, and 67 and App. II

² REP20/CAC, paragraphs 20 (i-ii), 31(ii) and 32

³ REP21/EXEC1, para 35-36

⁴ REP21/CAC, paragraph 12(iii)

⁵ REP21/CAC, paragraph 150

Matters for actionDevelopment of a standard for cashew kernels⁶

6. CAC43 adjourned CCPFV *sine die* and requested CCFFV consider the feasibility of taking up the task related to the development of a standard for cashew kernels. CAC noted that Mexico, as the host country of CCFFV, had indicated that in their view, the work on cashew kernels was within the mandate of CCPFV, and it should be undertaken by CCPFV rather than CCFFV.

Adoption of the General Standard for the Labelling of Non-retail Containers of Foods and consequential requirements⁷

7. CAC44 adopted the following texts:

- the General Standard for the Labelling of Non-retail Containers of Foods at Step 8; and
- the consequential amendment to the Procedural Manual (i.e. the Format for Codex Commodity Standards, section on labelling).

8. CAC44 requested Commodity Committees to review the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in existing and draft standards in light of the new standard for the labelling of non-retail containers. In the case of adjourned Committees, the Codex Secretariat will undertake the review.

9. CCFFV is **invited to consider** the requests from CAC43 and CAC44.

MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES**Matters for information****Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC78, CCEXEC80, CCEXEC81)**Implementation of CAC42: Feedback on Changes and Proposals for Further Improvements⁸

10. CCEXEC78 requested that Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies and CAC together with the Secretariat:

- develop strategies to prevent or mitigate technical discussions at CAC on topics for which there was no consensus and communicate these strategies to Members. Such strategies may include short adjournments of the session for informal discussions or suspension of discussions on items that overrun the planned time limit; and
- ensure that, at meetings of CAC, written comments received were given due consideration and the technical basis of reservations were included in meeting reports.

Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2018-2019: Critical Review Process⁹

11. CCEXEC78 concluded that the Critical Review was overall an efficient and effective work management tool and that there was no urgent need to revise it substantively while recognizing that improvements could be further discussed.

12. CCEXEC78 also recognized that CCEXEC could provide guidance and advice to subsidiary bodies and that subsidiary bodies could also seek advice from CCEXEC and that such exchange could take place outside of the Critical Review process.

Follow-Up to Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Periodic Review of Codex Standards¹⁰

13. CCEXEC78 concluded that the current approaches to standards review were working for active subsidiary bodies, and encouraged these bodies to continuously enhance their work management processes to consider the need for reviewing existing Codex standards.

⁶ REP20/CAC, paragraphs 130 and 132

⁷ REP21/CAC, paragraphs 83 and 86 and App. II

⁸ REP20/EXEC1, paragraphs 25-30

⁹ REP20/EXEC1, paragraphs 42, 46

¹⁰ REP 20/EXEC1, paragraphs 54-56

Follow-up to Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Use of References in Codex Texts¹¹

14. CCEXEC78 emphasized that while there may on occasion be merit in including references to standards of another standard setting organization, these should be kept to a minimum since they become an integral part of a Codex text and require life-long monitoring.

Report of the CCEXEC Sub-Committee on Codex and the Pandemic - Strategic Challenges and Opportunities¹²

15. CCEXEC80 recognized that CAC43 had agreed on the possibility of holding virtual meetings in 2021 and endorsed the proposals from the sub-committee on Codex and the pandemic to operationalize this decision, noting that this did not at present require any change to formal Codex procedures.

Codex and the Pandemic - progress on implementation of recommendations of CAC43 and CCEXEC80 and issues for consideration for 2022¹³

16. CCEXEC81 commended the huge efforts of the Codex family to deliver the 2021 work programme and in moving forward recommended that: Chairpersons and Host Secretariats collaborate closely with the Codex Secretariat in their efforts to establish a meeting schedule that is realistic to implement and ensures adequate time between meetings and that the Codex Secretariat together with Chairpersons and the larger membership further consider how EWGs and/or other inclusive and transparent mechanisms can continue to be strengthened, playing an even more fundamental role in Codex as a flexible mechanism to prepare work and ensure that discussions in subsidiary bodies is only held when there is a need for guidance or the work it is ready for progression in the step process. In addition, CCEXEC81 agreed to establish and lead a process to develop the blueprint for the future of Codex for consideration by CAC on its 60th anniversary in 2023. The process should include communication and outreach to Members and observers to collect general views on what a future Codex should look like.

17. CCEXEC81 established a sub-committee to investigate potential mechanisms to address cross-cutting, overarching and emerging issues in Codex such as new food sources.

41st Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling¹⁴ (CCMAS41)

18. CCMAS41 agreed to inform other relevant Codex Committees of the ongoing work on the revision of the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004) and invite any comments as relevant.

52nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives¹⁵ (CCFA52)

19. CCFA52 agreed to:

- publish on the Codex website the document titled “Guideline on avoiding future divergence of food additive provisions in the GSFA with Commodity Standards” as an information document and inform the corresponding Commodity Committees of this document; and
- update the alignment future work plan contained in the Information Document titled “Guidance to Commodity Committees on the Alignment of Food Additive Provisions”.

46nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling¹⁶ (CCFL46)

20. CCFL46 endorsed the labelling provisions in the Standards for Kiwifruit, Garlic, Ware Potatoes and Yam.

Matters for action

29th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables¹⁷ (CCPFV29)

21. Regarding the need to ensure clear differentiation between the products that would be covered by the proposed draft standard for Fresh Dates and those covered under the existing *Standard for Dates* (CXS 143-1985), CCPFV29 noted that the *Standard for Dates* (CXS 143-1985) covered dates prepared from sound fruit of the date tree (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.).

¹¹ REP20/EXEC1, paragraph 64

¹² REP21/EXEC1, paragraphs 35-36

¹³ REP21/EXEC2, paragraphs 83-85

¹⁴ REP21/MAS, paragraph 110(iv)

¹⁵ REP21/FA, paragraph 170(i-ii) and App. XII-XIII

¹⁶ REP21/FL, paragraph 17

¹⁷ REP20/PFV, paragraphs 11 and 12

22. CCPFV29 also noted that the *Standard for Dates* (CXS 143-1985) covers the product packed ready for direct consumption that meets the criteria in the standard, including the maximum moisture allowances in the standard. CCPFV29 further noted that there are some dates which are covered by the *Standard for Dates* (CXS 143-1985) which have not undergone any hydration or drying.

23. In order to ensure a clear differentiation between the products covered under the existing *Standard for Dates* (CXS 143-1985) and the proposed draft standard for Fresh Dates, CCPFV29 recommended that the proposed draft standard for Fresh Dates include those unprocessed, fresh dates which have moisture levels greater than the levels specified in the *Standard for Dates* (CXS 143-1985). The *Standard for Dates* (CXS 143-1985) would continue to cover those dates with moisture levels at or below the maximum allowances in the *Standard for Dates* (CXS 143-1985).

24. CCFFV is **invited to consider** the recommendation from CCPFV29.