

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2 c)

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Fifty-ninth Session, FAO Headquarters, Rome, 26 – 29 June 2007

CRITICAL REVIEW FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

MONITORING PROGRESS OF STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

- 1) The Executive Committee agreed at its 56th Session that the session held immediately prior to the Commission would review proposals for new work, while the session held between the sessions of the Commission would monitor standards development. However, as the Executive Committee did not meet between the sessions of the Commissions held in 2006 and 2007, the 59th Session will consider also the monitoring of standard development. The standards and related texts submitted to the Commission for adoption at Steps 5, 5/8 or 8 are considered in document CX/EXEC 07/59/2 and all other texts under development in the Elaboration Procedure are listed in the present document. The format proposed in the Draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013, (ALINORM 06/29/3A, Appendix II, Table2) was used with some adjustments.
- 2) The Job Identification Number provides information on standards and related texts that were approved as new work from 2004 onwards, but the Committee needs to know the date when new work was initiated for all standards. The first column in the Table therefore indicates either the Identification Number, or the year when new work was approved, or the year when work actually started, which may occur when the text under consideration is a subset of another text, or the scope was redefined, or when there was no formal approval as new work. The target year is the year by which the draft text is to be adopted at Step 8 as agreed by the Commission on the basis of the project document. When Committees have specified a time frame for finalisation of work undertaken prior to 2004, it is mentioned in the explanatory notes.
- 3) The output codes are specified in Part 2 of the Strategic Plan: 1.1 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety; 1.2 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality; 1.3 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition; 1.4 : Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis.
- 4) Scientific advice is mentioned not only when it has been required, but when it has been provided. The last column presented in the Draft Strategic Plan referred to advice from the Executive Committee and may be included if the Committee takes specific decisions, which could be presented in a Tabular form in an Annex.
- 5) Taking into account the short delays between the last Codex sessions held in May and the preparation for this document, it was not possible to ask the comments of the Chairpersons. However, they have been invited to present their comments separately and if comments are received, they will be presented in an addendum.

Committee and Document title	Timeframe		Current Status	Relevant Output Codes	Provision of Scientific Advice	Explanatory Notes
	Job ID or year	Target Year				
Codex Committee on Food Additives						
Proposed Draft revision of the Codex Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives – CAC/GL 36-2003”	N07-2005	2007	7/6	1.1		Section 2 finalised (at Step 7). Foreword and Section 3 to be revised (at Step 6)
Draft and Proposed draft Food Additive Provisions of the GSFA	ongoing		3 and 6	1.1		
Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings (N03-2006) (Section 4 and Annexes A and B)	N03-2006	2009	2/3	1.1		Other sections advanced to Step 5
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods						
Draft Maximum Level for Ochratoxin A in Wheat, Barley and Rye	1999		7	1.1	Reevaluation of OTA by 68 th JECFA (2007)	No consensus on the level. At Step 7 since 2004. Retained at Step 7 pending JECFA evaluation.
Draft Maximum Level for Total Aflatoxins in Almonds, Hazelnuts and Pistachios “For Further Processing”	2003		7	1.1	68 th JECFA	No consensus on the level. 68 th JECFA to evaluate the potential impact on exposure of different aflatoxin maximum levels. Retained at Step 7 pending JECFA evaluation.
Draft Maximum Level for Total Aflatoxins in Almonds, Hazelnuts and Pistachios “Ready- to-Eat”	2003		7	1.1		
Proposed Draft Revision of the Preamble of the GSCTF	N04-2006	2009	2/3	1.1		
Proposed Draft Sampling Plan for Aflatoxin Contamination in Almonds,	N07-2004	NS	2/3	1.1		

Brazil nuts, Hazelnuts and Pistachios						
Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Food	N06-2006	2010	2/3	1.1		
Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of Contamination of Food with Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) from Smoking and Direct Drying Processes	N07-2006	2009	2/3	1.1		
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Fats and Oils						
Draft Amendments to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils: inclusion of rice bran oil	2003		6	1.2		Further consideration of some composition characteristics is required
Draft List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes	1999		6	1.1	FAO/WHO Technical Meeting held in November 2006	The Lists had been held at Steps 4 and 7 pending scientific advice from FAO/WHO. Taking into account the recommendations of the FAO/WHO Technical meeting, the Committee proceeded with its work on the issue and agreed to circulate the criteria proposed by the Technical Meeting and the lists for consideration at the next session.
Proposed Draft List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes	1999		3	1.1		
Proposed Draft Criteria (Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Fats and Oils in Bulk)			3	1.1		
Proposed Draft Amendments to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils: total carotenoids in unbleached palm oil	N01-2005	2007	3	1.2		Accelerated Procedure due to consensus when it was proposed as new work. In the Committee different views were expressed by producing countries and it was returned for further comments
Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils: linolenic acid	2003		3	1.2		Following the decision of the 26 th CAC (2003) when adopting the Standard, CCFO considered the level of linolenic acid taking into account the IOOC survey and agreed to resume work on the inclusion of linolenic acid in the standard
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products						
Draft Standard for Sturgeon Caviar	2003		6	1.1 1.2		No consensus on the proposals to change the scope at the last session. The Committee indicated 2008 as the target date for finalisation.
Proposed Draft Standard for Smoked Fish	1996		2/3	1.2		Delays in the initial preparation of the draft and need to clarify the scope
Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (other sections)			3	1.1 1.2		Ongoing work developed section by section (see texts at Steps 8 and 5), with one last section at Step 3 (smoked fish). It will be considered in conjunction with the development of the corresponding standard.
Proposed Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Scallop Adductor Muscle Meat	2001		4	1.1 1.2		Main issues in the standard are moisture content and use of additives. CCFFP agreed to develop a code of practice in order to solve technical issues
Proposed Draft Code of Practice on the Processing of Scallop Meat	N02-2005		4	1.1 1.2		
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene						
Annex: Application of Food Safety Metrics in Risk Management Decision Making	1997		4	1.1		Annex to the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Management advanced to Step 8
Annex: Application of Food Safety Metrics in Risk Management Decision Making – Pasteurized Liquid Whole Eggs	2001		4	1.1		Held at Step 4 pending progress on the above general Annex
Proposed Draft Revision of the Recommended International Code of Practice for Foods for Infants and Children	N10-2004	2010	2/3	1.1	FAO/WHO meetings on <i>E. sakazakii</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> and other pathogens in powdered infant	The 38 th CCFH agreed on a target date of 2009

					formula in 2004 and 2006	
Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Validation of Food Safety Control Measures	2002		2/3	1.1		
Microbiological Criteria for <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in Ready-to-Eat Foods	2001		2/3	1.1		To be inserted in the Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in Foods (at Step 8)
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems						
Proposed Draft Appendix to the Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification	N04-2004	NS	2/3	1.4		
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables						
Draft Codex Standard for Tomatoes	1999		7	1.2		Certain sizing provisions require further consideration. The 13 th CCFFV agreed that the standard should be finalised for adoption in 2008
Draft Section 3 - Provisions concerning Sizing (draft Codex Standard for Tomatoes)	1999		6	1.2		
Proposed Draft Standard for Apples	1999		2/3	1.2		The 13 th CCFFV agreed that the standard should be finalised for adoption in 2010.
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on General Principles						
Proposed Draft Revised Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food	1999		3			Very controversial. No consensus on the need for the revised Code, the overall purpose of the document and several sections. The 24 th CCGP circulated for comments a shortened text, on which there are substantial differences of view: either that it will not solve the problems and that work should be discontinued, or that substantial sections of the current Code should be reinstated. The CCGP had asked the advice of CCFICS on this issue and the recommendations of CCFICS (in the matters referred to the Commission), are addressed to member countries and to FAO/WHO but do not apply to the Code of Ethics itself.
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling						
Draft Guidelines for Evaluating Acceptable Methods of Analysis	2001		7	1.3		Held at Step 7 pending publication of scientific papers related to measurement uncertainty.
Draft Guidelines for Settling Disputes on Analytical (Test) Results	2003		6	1.3		Returned to Step 6 due to substantial changes and proposed new approach based on measurement uncertainty. The objective of the CCMAS is to finalise the Guidelines in 2008.
Proposed Draft Guideline on <i>Analytical Terminology</i>	2003 N12-2006		3	1.3		Initially as revision of the Terminology Section in the Procedural Manual.
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses						
Guidelines for Use of Nutrition Claims:	1995		6	1.3	FAO/WHO	Controversial due to the difficulties related to

Draft Table of Contents for Nutrient Contents (Part B Containing Provisions on Dietary Fibre)					scientific update on carbohydrates in human nutrition	the definition of fibre and methodology issues. The Committee agreed to circulate the definition considered earlier and the definition proposed in the FAO/WHO report, as presented at the 28 th CCNFSDU (2006).
Draft Revised Standard for Gluten-Free Foods	1991		6	1.3		49 th CCEXEC recommended that the Standard be held at Step 7 pending clarification of the scientific basis for the establishment of a level and a method of determination. At Step 7 since 2003. Major difficulties due to lack of consensus on the acceptable level and the method of determination. The question of the method has been addressed and the text including the maximum level was circulated for comments.
Proposed Draft Recommendations on the Scientific Basis of Health Claims	2003		4	1.3		This text has not been considered in detail so far due to the heavy agenda of the Committee and the time taken to address the revision of standards such as infant formula.
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables						
Proposed Draft Annexes specific to certain canned vegetables (Proposed Draft Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables)	1998		3	1.2		The General Provisions in the Proposed Draft Standard for Certain Canned Vegetables are at Step 5. The Annexes and Guidelines will be incorporated into the Standard. The Committee agreed to complete work in 2010
Proposed Draft Guidelines for Packing Media on Canned Vegetables	1998		3	1.2		
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia						
Proposed draft Standard for Fermented Soybean Paste (Section 3.2)	N02-2004	2007	2/3	1.2		The section on quality factors was sent for

Proposed draft Standard for Fermented Soybean Paste (N02-2004) (other Sections)	N02-2004	2007	4	1.2		redrafting and comments, and several changes made to the other sections, retained at Step 4
Proposed draft Standard for Non Fermented Soybean Products	N06-2005	2009	2/3	1.2		Standard to be redrafted according to the classification of products established by the Committee, in order to clarify the types of products covered.
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Coordinating Committee for the Near East						
Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Street Vended Foods	2001		2/3	1.1		
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Food Labelling						
Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods: Draft Revised Annex 2 : Table 3 (other substances)	2002		6	1.3		The main part of Table 3 is at Step 8. Some substances are still for consideration as there is no agreement on their use in an organic system. The Tables were revised section by section.
Proposed Draft Revised Annex 2 : Table 1 (Natural Sodium Nitrate)	2002		3	1.3		Discontinuation of work proposed to the 30 th CAC due to lack of support for the use of this substance
Draft Amendment to the General Standard (Draft Recommendations for the Labelling of Foods obtained through certain techniques of GM/GE): Definitions	1996		7	1.3		Highly controversial. No consensus on the consideration of the definitions (initially proposed as an amendment to the General Standard) separately from the other recommendations.
Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Labelling of Foods obtained through certain techniques of GM/GE: Labelling Provisions	1996		3	1.3		Highly controversial. In the Step Procedure since 1997. The text of the Guidelines has not been considered in the Committee since 2002. Following sessions and physical working groups have discussed the general approach and how to proceed with this issue. A similar discussion was

						held in the 35 th Session
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues						
Draft and Revised Draft MRLs	ongoing		6	1.1		
Proposed Draft and Revised Draft MRLs				1.1		
Proposed Draft Revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds	N11-2004 N09-2006	2012	2/3	1.1		The limited revision of the Classification initially approved was extended to a general revision. The last CCPR session agreed that no section should be adopted separately, even if finalised, established a timetable for revision of each section. However so far the Committee has discussed only the general approach and no specific section has been considered in detail.
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products						
Proposed draft Amendment to the Codex Standard for Fermented Milks pertaining to Composite Fermented Milk Drinks	2003		2/3	1.2		The 7 th CCMMP agreed on a target date of 2010
Proposed Draft Standard for Processed Cheese	2002		2/3	1.2		Some controversial issues related to the scope of the standard and composition requirements in view of the wide range of products concerned
Amendment to the List of Additives of the Codex Standard for Creams and Prepared Creams	N08-2006	2008	2/3	1.1		Approved as new work at the 29 th CAC in 2006 – CCMMP to meet in 2008
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

<i>Ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on the Processing and Handling of Quick Processed Foods						
Proposed Draft International Code of Practice for Quick Frozen Foods	2000	2008	3	1.1 1.2		After being returned to Step 3 by the 28 th CAC (2005), further work on quality provisions by correspondence was coordinated by the US Secretariat, but this did not allow to solve all outstanding issues. The 29 th CAC (2006) therefore decided to establish an intergovernmental Task Force, hosted by Thailand, to discuss and finalise both safety and quality provisions in the Code. The Commission returned the Code to Step 3 for comments and it was agreed that Thailand and the United States would prepare a revised document as a basis for discussion at the Task Force, which will be held in February 2008. The Code should be finalised for adoption at the Commission in 2008
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						

<i>Ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology						
Proposed Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals	N01-2006	2009	3	1.1		
Proposed Draft Annex to the Guideline for the Conduct of Foods Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants: Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants Modified for Nutritional or Health Benefits	N02-2006	2009	2/3	1.1		
Comments by the Chairperson/host country of the Committee:						