

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 11(b)

CX/FAC 03/14
November 2002

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Thirty-fifth Session

Arusha, Tanzania, 17 - 21 March 2003

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE IDENTITY AND PURITY OF FOOD ADDITIVES ARISING FROM THE 59TH MEETING OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (JECFA)

Governments and international organizations wishing to submit comments on the following subject matter are invited to do so **no later than 31 January 2003** 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 272 food additives and flavouring agents were prepared at the 59th JECFA meeting (Geneva, June 2002) and are published in Addendum 10 to the "Compendium of Food Additive Specifications" (FAO Food and Nutrition Paper 52-Add. 10 – distributed under separate cover). Of the 272 specifications, 5 (1 new) are for food additives with uses other than as flavouring agents, and 267 (202 new) are for flavouring agents. Specifications for 5 food additives and 262 flavouring agents (including 12 for which existing specifications were maintained) were designated as "Full." The "Tentative" designation was assigned to specifications for 5 of the 267 flavouring agents.

2. Revised limits for arsenic and lead for 49 colours and 40 acidity regulators were also established and published in Addendum 10. Limits for 3 additional colours (aluminium, iron oxides, and titanium dioxide) were also reviewed by the JECFA, but the JECFA maintained the existing limits pending receipt of additional information. The Commission has previously adopted the complete specifications of 77 of these 92 additives as Codex Advisory Specifications. With the exception of aluminium powder, the Committee is being asked to review the newly established or revised limits for arsenic and lead for 76 of the 77 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 A of Food and Nutrition Paper 52 - Add. 10.

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 34th 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. An explanation of the five categories is provided in Annex 1.

5. The limits for lead and arsenic for 49 colours and 40 acidity regulators were also established or revised at the 59th 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 (76, see Annex 1) whose complete specifications are already adopted as Codex Advisory Specifications will be open for discussion and classified as 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

6. Of the 267 flavouring agent specifications established during the 59th JECFA, 5 are designated as tentative (see Annex 1) and will be assigned to Category IV or V. This leaves 262 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 267 substances are included in Annex 1.

7. The existing full specifications for glyceryl tribenzoate (JECFA no. 861), propylene glycol dibenzoate (no. 862), butyl-p-hydroxybenzoate (no. 870), glyceryl tripropanoate (no. 921), and tributyrin (no. 922) were maintained.

Consideration of Principles

8. 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.

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON SPECIFICATIONS
Saturday 15 March 2003, 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. 10) arising from the 59th 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 59th JECFA, Geneva June 2002)
 - i. *Risk assessment and specifications of identity and purity of food additives*
 - ii. *Limits for heavy metals in colours and acidity regulators*
 - iii. *Specifications for flavouring agents*
 - iv. *Chemicals requiring confirmation of use 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).

FOOD ADDITIVE SPECIFICATIONS DESIGNATED AS TENTATIVE AT THE 59th JECFA
(FNP 52 - ADD. 10, Geneva, 2002)

None.

**REVISION OF HEAVY METALS LIMITS FOR CERTAIN ADDITIVES AT THE 59th JECFA
(SEE FNP 52 - ADD. 10)**

Colours	INS	Acidity Regulators	INS
Allura red AC	129	Acetic acid, glacial	260
Amaranth	123	Ammonia solution	527
beta Apo-8'-carotenal	160 e	Ammonium carbonate	503 i
beta-Apo-8'-carotenic acid ethyl ester	160 f	Ammonium dihydrogen phosphate	342 i
Azorubine	122	Calcium citrate	333
Beet red	162	Calcium dihydrogen phosphate	341 i
Brilliant Blue FCF	133	Calcium DL malate	352 ii
Brown HT	155	Calcium hydroxide	526
Canthaxanthin	161 g	Calcium lactate	327
Caramel colours	150 a,b,c,d	Calcium oxide	529
Carmines	120	Diammonium hydrogen phosphate	342 ii
beta-Carotene, Synthetic	160 a(i)	Dicalcium pyrophosphate	450 vi
Carthamus red	--	Dipotassium hydrogen phosphate	340 ii
Carthamus yellow	--	Disodium pyrophosphate	450 i
Chlorophyllins, copper complexes		Hydrochloric acid	507
sodium and potassium salts	141 ii	Magnesium hydrogen carbonate	504 ii
Chlorophylls	140	Magnesium hydroxide	528
Chlorophylls, copper complexes	141 i	Magnesium DL-lactate	329
Cochineal extract	120	Phosphoric acid	338
Curcumin	100	Potassium carbonate	501 i
Erythrosine	127	Potassium dihydrogen citrate	332
Fast Green FCF	143	Potassium hydrogen carbonate	501 ii
Fast Red E	--	Potassium hydroxide	525
Green S	142	Sodium acetate	262 i
Indigotine	132	Sodium carbonate	500 i
Lithol rubine BK	180	Sodium dihydrogen citrate	331 i
Mixed carotenoids	--	Sodium dihydrogen phosphate	339 i
Paprika Oleoresin	160 c	Sodium DL-malate	350 ii
Patent Blue V	131	Sodium fumarate	365
Quinoline Yellow	104	Sodium hydrogen carbonate	500 ii
Red 2G	128	Sodium hydrogen DL-malate	350 i
Riboflavin	101 i	Sodium hydroxide	524
Riboflavin 5'-phosphate sodium	101 ii	Sodium sesquicarbonate	500 iii
Riboflavin from <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	101 i	Sulfuric acid	513
Saffron	--	Tripotassium citrate	332 ii
Sunset Yellow FCF	110	Tripotassium phosphate	340 iii
Tartrazine	102	Trisodium citrate	331 iii
Turmeric oleoresin	100 ii	Trisodium phosphate	339 iii
Vegetable carbon	153		

**JECFA NUMBERS FOR FLAVOURING AGENTS GIVEN FULL SPECIFICATIONS
(including those for which an existing specification was maintained or a tentative designation removed)
BY THE 59th JECFA (SEE FNP 52-ADD. 10)**

111, 113, 115, 116, 182, 230, 238, 250, 310, 390, 455, 476, 483, 490, 492, 493, 540, 542, 551, 553, 564, 566, 601, 602, 606, 608, 609, 614, 616, 617, 622, 624, 625, 626, 627, 642, 678, 729, 743, 745, 752, 814, 817, 847, 861, 862, 866, 870, 872, 910, 911, 914, 915, 916, 917, 921, 922, 926, 943, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156 (Total 262)

**JECFA NUMBERS FOR FLAVOURING AGENTS GIVEN TENTATIVE SPECIFICATIONS
(including those for which an existing tentative designation was maintained)
BY THE 59th JECFA (SEE FNP 52-ADD. 10)**

918, 919, 923, 924, 937 (Total 5)

SPECIFICATIONS WITHDRAWN BY THE 59th JECFA

None.