CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION E

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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Agenda Item 5.1 **CX/FO 19/26/5**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

Twenty-Sixth Session

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PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION OF CODEX STANDARD FOR NAMED VEGETABLE OILS (CODEX STAN 210-1999)

Change in the temperature for the analysis of Refractive Index and Apparent Density

(Replies to CL 2017/60/OCS-CFFO)

(Comments of Algeria, Bahrain, Ecuador, Egypt, European Union, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Zambia and AOCS - American Oil Chemists' Society)

Background

1. This document compiles comments received through the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) in response to CL 2017/60/OCS-CCFO issued in May 2017 with a deadline for submission of comments of 30 May 2018.

Explanatory notes on the appendix

2. The comments submitted through the OCS are hereby attached as **Annex I** and are presented in table format, while those presented through email are in **Annex II.**

Annex I

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE STANDARD FOR NAMED VEGETABLE OILS (CODEX STAN 210-1999)"

Country/observer	Comment
Algeria	The ranges for the Codex Limits (40º C) for refractive index and apparent density correspond essentially to palm oil and not to the liquid fraction of palm superoleine.
Bahrain	No comments
Ecuador	Ecuador considers viable the proposal presented by Malaysia about the change to the experimental temperature, from 40ºC to 30ºC for the analysis of the refractive index and apparent density of the palm superoleine, as long as it is backed by solid and consistent equivalences of the values between the two temperatures and the proposed ranges, in accordance with and meeting the fifth general Codex Alimentarius principle, namely: "(....) Each member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission will undertake to point out and inform the relevant competent committee of any new scientific or other information that may justify the revision of Codex Standards or their valid texts".
Egypt	Egypt agrees with the purpose to change the experimental temperature in the specification for refractive index (RI) and apparent density of palm superolein from 40°C to 30°C in Table 2 in the Appendix to the Codex Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999) to address the current impediment to the trade of palm superolein.
European Union	Mixed Competence Member States Vote. The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to submit the following comments: In the proposed amendment to the standard for Named Vegetable Oils (Codex Stan 210-1999) Malaysia suggests to change the temperature for the analysis of the refractive index and apparent density of palm superolein from 40°C to 30°C. According to Malaysia, the refractive index falls within the values specified in the Codex Stan 210-1999 (1.463-1.465) only when analysed at the experimental temperature of 30°C and not at 40°C as defined in the standard. Feedback from the European industry shows values from 1.4592 to 1.4595 when measured at 40°C which indeed do not meet the Codex standard (1.463-1.465). When measured at 30°C the value of refractive index was about 1.4633 on average. This confirms the finding of Malaysia that the defined values for the refractive index of superolein in the Codex standard cannot be reached at a temperature of 40°C but only at 30°C. For practical reasons the EUMS consider that it would be more appropriate to define a new specification at 40°C instead of changing the experimental temperature in the specification for the refractive index of palm superolein from 40°C to 30°C as suggested by Malaysia. This is because the Malaysian proposal would oblige laboratories to use two different temperatures for the analysis of refractive index of palm oil and palm superolein. After measuring the refractive index of palm oil at 40°C the oven would have to be cooled down to 30°C for palm superolein. This is feasible but from a practical point of view it would be more appropriate to adapt the specification for the refractive index of palm superolein to 40°C, the temperature also used for the other products. The same applies for the apparent density. In summary, the EUMS agree with the findings of Malaysia but would suggest not to change the temperature from 40°C to 30°C for palm superolein but to adapt the specification in the Codex standard.
Guatemala	In our first view of the document, we don't have any correction.
Guinea-Bissau	No comments
Iraq	Agree with Malaysia proposal
Peru	The opinion of the National Technical Commission in the context of the Codex Alimentarius document CL 2017/60/OCS-FO is to agree to the content of this document.
	In relation to item 6, our country does not have specific comments to make.
	In relation to item 7, Peru does not have specific comments to make.
Zambia	Zambia imports some oils from Malaysia and supports the adjustment in the experimental temperature
AOCS - American Oil Chemists' Society	the last word in the title is incomplete

ANNEX II

COMMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

In the Appendix of the CL, Malaysia has provided data that suggest that current Codex limits for Refractive Index and Apparent Density for palm superolein found in the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999) can be achieved only when analyzed at 30 °C, but not 40 °C. Therefore, Malaysia has proposed to revise the Standard to require palm superolein be analyzed for Refractive Index and Apparent Density at 30 °C.

In order to be consistent with the temperature required for analysis of Refractive Index and Apparent Density for most other oils found in the Standard, the United States recommends that the temperature for analysis be maintained at 40 °C. In addition, the United States also recommends that the limits for Refractive Index and Apparent Density be revised as described by Malaysia in Table 1 of the Appendix of the CL, as follows:

Parameter	**40 °C**
Refractive Index	1.459-1.460
Apparent Density, g/mL	0.886-0.900

The United States also notes that the AOCS Official Method for Refractive Index (AOCS Cc 7-25 (02)) specifies that refractive index measurements should be made at 20, 40, 50, 60, or 80 °C.