

codex alimentarius commission E



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Agenda Item 6 (b)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Thirty-ninth Session

Beijing, China, 24-28 April 2007

REPORT OF THE ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUP ON THE REVISION OF THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

(prepared by Switzerland with the assistance of Brazil, China, Cuba, France, European Community, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Serbia and Montenegro, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States and ELC)

Governments and international organizations in Observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission wishing to submit comments on the proposed revision of the Procedural Manual are invited to do so **no later than 15 March 2007** as follows: Secretariat, Codex Committee on Food Additives, National Institute of Nutrition and Food Safety, China CDC, 7 Panjiayuan Nanli, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100021, China (Telefax: + 86 10 67711813, E-mail: secretariat@ccfa.cc preferably), with a copy to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy (Telefax: +39.06.5705.4593; E-mail: Codex@fao.org - preferably).

OBJECTIVES OF WORK

1. At its 38th session the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants agreed to establish an electronic Working Group¹ led by Switzerland to consider the relevant amendments to the Procedural Manual, including: i) Format for Codex commodity standards, section on food additives; ii) Relations between commodity committees and general committees, section on food additives and contaminants; and iii) Terms of reference of the Committee and to prepare a report with a first proposal of amendments to the Procedural Manual for circulation, comments and further consideration at the next session of the Committee (ALINORM 06/29/12, paras 68 and 69).
2. The main objective of the proposed amendments to the Procedural Manual is to align the procedures related to the elaboration of food additive provisions and the formats to be used with those changes of the Preamble to the General Standard for Food Additives (Codex Stan 192) (GSFA) which were adopted by the Commission at the 29th session (ALINORM 06/29/41, para 40; ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix V) and those proposed changes contained in the draft *Procedures for Consideration of the Entry and Review of Food Additive Provisions in the General Standard for Food Additives* (ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix VI; this document is referred to as draft *Procedures for Consideration*).
3. Appendix I provides a comprehensive synoptic table of the relevant current sections of the Procedural Manual, the new proposed texts to replace those, and comments which provide a justification for each proposal are consolidated. This is provided to facilitate a transparent and informed discussion by the

¹ WG members: Brazil, China, Cuba, France, European Community, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Serbia and Montenegro, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States and ELC.

Committee. It is understood that only the column *Proposed new text* of Appendix I will be forwarded to the Codex Committee on General Principles for endorsement and subsequently to the Commission for final adoption. This consolidated proposal is also available as one single document in Appendix II.

FORMAT FOR CODEX COMMODITY STANDARDS

4. The Preamble of the GSFA, as adopted by the Commission in 2006, states that this standard “should be the single authoritative reference point for food additives.” In practice this means that a commodity standard should, reference to Tables 1, 2 and 3 of the GSFA. However, its is recognized by the draft *Procedures for Consideration* that in exceptional cases a general reference may not be adequate and that an alternative approach may be necessary for helping to realize the mission of Codex to protect consumer health and to promote fair trade practices.

5. The alternative approach should be the exception. The general format of the food additive section of commodity standards should include, as a default, a reference to the GSFA. If a commodity committee proposes an alternative approach a comprehensive justification should be provided to the CCFA for consideration.

RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEES

6. The Working Group’s terms of reference mentioned only the section *Food Additives and Contaminants* (pp 93-95 of the 15th edition), however, a closer examination of the general introduction (p 92) revealed that its second and third paragraph could possibly also require some revisions; they are therefore included in Appendix I. The Working Group leaves it to the Committee to decide whether this is beyond the assigned task and shall be considered or not.

7. The relations between commodity committees and the CCFA shall reflect the overall principle that the GSFA is the single authoritative reference point for food additives. This includes not only the additive provisions of the GSFA’s Tables 1, 2 and 3 but also the principles and guidance contained in the Preamble and, in particular, Section 3 (General Principles for the Use of Food Additives).

8. Based on the experience gained during recent years from discussions on the food additive provisions of several commodity standards it would be helpful if commodity committees and the CCFA discuss the approach to the commodity standard’s food additive section early in the Codex standard elaboration process. Whether such discussions can take place before the commodity standards are advanced to Step 5 needs to be discussed with the Codex Secretariat and the CCGP.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

9. The new Terms of Reference for the CCFA were adopted by the Commission with the understanding that they would be examined and possibly revised at the Committee’s 39th session. The Working Group studied whether the *Terms of Reference* reflect the working relationship between the CCFA and the commodity committees and concluded that this was the case. In order to distinguish more clearly between the work on the GSFA and the amendment of food additive sections in commodity standards, the Committee may wish to split the current Term a) into two separate entries.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The proposed amendments to the Procedural Manual will be discussed by the 39th session of the CCFA taking in to account, if possible, the discussions on the *Procedures for Consideration* that will have taken place at the 24th session of the CCGP.

11. Depending on the results of the discussion the CCFA may wish to forward the proposed amendments directly to the Commission for adoption, send it to the Commission via the CCGP, or allow for another round of discussion within the Committee.

12. Since the Working group agreed that the section *Relations between commodity committees and general committees* shall describe only the relation between commodity committees and the CCFA, CCCF is asked to draft a separate section.

Synopsis of current text, proposed new text and comments - based on the 15th edition of the Procedural Manual as modified by the 29th Session of the Commission

Page	Current text	Proposed new text	Comments
Format for Codex Commodity Standards - Food Additives			
89	<p>This section should contain the names of the additives permitted and, where appropriate, the maximum amount permitted in the food. It should be prepared in accordance with guidance given in the section on Food Additives and Contaminants in the <i>Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees</i>, and may take the following form:</p> <p><i>“The following provisions in respect of food additives and their specifications as contained in section of the Codex Alimentarius are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.”</i></p> <p>Then should follow a tabulation, viz.:</p> <p><i>“Name of additive, maximum level (in percentage or mg/kg).”</i></p>	<p>This section should contain a general reference to the corresponding sections of the General Standard for Food Additives which may take the following form:</p> <p><i>“[Food Additive functional class] used in accordance with Tables 1 and 2 of the Codex General Standard of Food Additives in food category x.x.x.x [food category name] or listed in Table 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives are acceptable for use in foods conforming to this standard.”)</i></p> <p>Exceptions from, or additions to, the General Standard for Food Additives that are necessary for its interpretation with respect to the product concerned should be justified fully, and should be restricted where possible. In such cases the names of the additives/functional classes permitted and, where appropriate, the maximum amount permitted in the food should be prepared in accordance with guidance given in the section on Food Additives in the <i>Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees</i>, and may take the following form:</p> <p><i>“The following provisions in respect of food additives and their specifications as contained in section of the Codex Alimentarius are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by</i></p>	<p>According to Section 1.2 of the adopted Preamble and the section <i>“Is the food additive used in standardized food?”</i> of the proposed <i>Procedures</i> (ALINORM 06/29/12, Appendix IV) the preferred or default option for the food additive section of a commodity standard is a general reference to the tables of the GSFA. However, it is understood that in certain cases such a reference will not be adequate.</p> <p>CCFA should consider the general format items of the cross-reference to the GSFA. There are two approaches. The first would be to follow the example in the Procedural Manual for referencing the general standards for food hygiene and labelling of pre-packaged foods. For these two general standards, the PM recommends a straightforward, simple reference to these general standards. The second approach is to be more specific with explicit references to the critical elements in the GSFA, e.g., food additive functional class, food category, Tables 1, 2, or 3. The food additive functional class information is important when the standardized food and the non-standardized foods are subject to the same food category. By instructing the commodity committees to specify additives by functional classes, they can exclude food additive classes that may be appropriate in their non-standardized counterparts. Inclusion of information on the</p>

Page	Current text	Proposed new text	Comments
		<p><i>the Codex Committee on Food Additives.”</i></p> <p>Then should follow a tabulation, viz.:</p> <p><i>“Name of additive, maximum level (in percentage or mg/kg).”</i></p>	<p>appropriate GSFA food category and Tables should be necessary for clarity and easiness of use. Inclusion of a potential reference to all three GSFA Tables would not inadvertently exclude the commodity standards from referencing the work already completed on Table 3. The disadvantage with the second approach is that any changes to the INS or the food category system may have unintended consequential effects on the commodity standard.</p> <p>This part of the procedural manual may need to be amended further following the discussions for the integration into the GSFA of the Food Additive Provisions of Commodity Standards with one-to-many relationship with the food categories of the GSFA.</p>
Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees			
92	<p>The Codex Committees on Food Labelling; Food Additives; Contaminants in Foods; Methods of Analysis and Sampling; Food Hygiene; Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses; and Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems may establish general provisions on matters within their terms of reference. These provisions should only be incorporated into Codex Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise.</p>	<p>The Codex Committees on Food Labelling; Food Additives; Contaminants in Foods; Methods of Analysis and Sampling; Food Hygiene; Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses; and Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems may establish general provisions on matters within their terms of reference. These provisions should only be incorporated into Codex Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise.</p>	<p>No changes required.</p>
92	<p>Codex Commodity standards shall contain sections on hygiene, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling and these sections should contain all of the relevant provisions of the standard. Provisions of Codex General Standards, Codes or Guidelines shall only be incorporated into Codex Commodity Standards by reference</p>	<p>Codex Commodity standards shall contain sections on <u>food additives</u>, hygiene, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling and these sections should contain all of the relevant provisions of the standard. Provisions of Codex General Standards, Codes or Guidelines shall only be incorporated into Codex Commodity</p>	<p>Any Codex provision on food additives should be established or endorsed by the CCFA. This introductory paragraph should provide the basis for referral of all food additive provisions to CCFA. It is a small but important change which allows CCFA to work on its main objective to develop the GSFA as the “single authoritative</p>

Page	Current text	Proposed new text	Comments
	<p>unless there is a need for doing otherwise. Where Codex Committees are of the opinion that the general provisions are not applicable to one or more commodity standards, they may request the responsible Committees to endorse deviations from the general provisions of the Codex Alimentarius. Such requests should be fully justified and supported by available scientific evidence and other relevant information. Sections on hygiene, labelling, and methods of analysis and sampling which contain specific provisions or provisions supplementing the Codex General Standards, Codes or Guidelines shall be referred to the responsible Codex Committees at the most suitable time during Steps 3, 4 and 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, though such reference should not be allowed to delay the progress of the standard to the subsequent steps of the Procedure.</p>	<p>Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise. Where Codex Committees are of the opinion that the general provisions are not applicable to one or more commodity standards, they may request the responsible Committees to endorse deviations from the general provisions of the Codex Alimentarius. Such requests should be fully justified and supported by available scientific evidence and other relevant information. Sections on hygiene, labelling, <u>food additives</u>, and methods of analysis and sampling which contain specific provisions or provisions supplementing the Codex General Standards, Codes or Guidelines shall be referred to the responsible Codex Committees at the most suitable time during Steps 3, 4 and 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, though such reference should not be allowed to delay the progress of the standard to the subsequent steps of the Procedure.</p>	<p>reference point for food additives” within the Codex Alimentarius.</p>
93	FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS	FOOD ADDITIVES	<p>Separate sections for the relations between commodity committees and the two new committees are advisable to assure clarity and to ease discussions. CCCF should be asked to revise or draft a separate sub-section.</p>
93f	<p>Codex commodity committees should prepare a section on food additives in each draft commodity standard and this section should contain all the provisions in the standard relating to food additives. The section should include the names of those additives which are considered to be technologically necessary or which are widely permitted for use in the food within maximum levels where appropriate.</p>	<p>Codex commodity committees shall examine the General Standard for Food Additives with a view toward incorporating a reference to the General Standard. All proposals for additions or revisions to the General Standard in order to establish a reference to the General Standard shall be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Codex Committee on Food Additives shall consider such proposals for endorsement. Revisions of a substantive nature</p>	<p>This section is modified extensively since the default option for food additive provisions is a general reference to the GSFA (first paragraph). In case of deviations the “old” procedure is retained (second paragraph), however, such deviations shall be justified and need to be endorsed by CCFA. Codex commodity committees shall always take into consideration the Section 3 of the Preamble which “governs” all food additive provisions of</p>

Page	Current text	Proposed new text	Comments
		<p>that are endorsed by the Food Additives Committee will be referred back to the commodity committee in order to achieve consensus between both committees at an early stage of the step procedure.</p> <p>Should the Codex commodity committee consider that a general reference to the General Standard for Food Additives does not serve its purpose, a proposal should be prepared and forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for consideration and endorsement. The commodity committee shall provide a justification for why a general reference to the General Standard would not protect consumer health, ensure fair practices in the food trade or does not meet the criteria for the use of food additives established in the Preamble of the General Standard, in particular Section 3..</p> <p>When considering provisions for food additives in standards, all Codex committees should follow the guidance in the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives specifically Section 3. Full explanation should be provided to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for any departure from this guidance.</p>	<p>the Codex Alimentarius not only those of the GSFA. Exceptions for certain foods (e.g. infant formula) need to discussed in a transparent approach.</p>
94	<p>All provisions in respect of food additives (including processing aids) and contaminants contained in Codex commodity standards should be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives or on Contaminants in Foods preferably after the Standards have been advanced to Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards or before they are considered by the Commodity Committee</p>	<p>All provisions in respect of food additives (including processing aids) contained in Codex commodity standards should be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives preferably <u>before</u> the Standards have been advanced to Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards or before they are considered by the Commodity Committee concerned at Step 7, though such referral should not be allowed to</p>	<p>The discussion whether a general reference to the GSFA is sufficient should start earlier to allow the CCFA to discuss possible amendments to the GSFA in order to assure one-to-one alignment of a GSFA category and the commodity in question.</p>

Page	Current text	Proposed new text	Comments
	concerned at Step 7, though such reference should not be allowed to delay the progress of the Standard to the subsequent Steps of the Procedure.	delay the progress of the Standard to the subsequent Steps of the Procedure.	
94	All provisions in respect of food additives will require to be endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, on the basis of technological justification submitted by the commodity committees and of the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives concerning the safety-in-use (acceptable daily intake (ADI) and other restrictions) and an estimate of the potential and, where possible, the actual intake of the food additives, ensuring conformity with the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives.	All provisions in respect of food additives <u>contained in commodity standards</u> will require endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, on the basis of technological justification submitted by the commodity committees and on the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives concerning the safety-in-use (acceptable daily intake (ADI) and other restrictions) and an estimate of the potential and, where possible, the actual intake of the food additives, ensuring conformity with <u>the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives</u> .	Technical amendments for alignment with other changes.
94	In preparing working papers for the Codex Committee on Food Additives, the Secretariat should make a report to the Committee concerning the endorsement of provisions for food additives (including processing aids), on the basis of the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives. Provisions for food additives should indicate the International Numbering System (INS) number, the ADI, technological justification, proposed level, and whether the additive was previously endorsed (or temporarily endorsed).	[When forwarding a food additive section of a commodity standard for endorsement by Codex Committee on Food Additives, the Secretariat should prepare a report to the Committee that includes not only the proposed provisions for food additives but also indicates the International Numbering System (INS) number, the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) assigned by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, technological justification, proposed level, and whether the additive was previously endorsed (or temporarily endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives).]	We are unsure about this paragraph. What does the term “working papers” mean? Was it used? If yes, how and when? In case of doubt it may be better to remove it. It could be that this paragraph describes the format of the document to be prepared by the CCFA or Codex Secretariat when forwarding food additive sections of commodity standards for endorsement to CCFA. If yes, the text in brackets may describe this more appropriately.
94	When commodity standards are sent to governments for comment at Step 3, they should contain a statement that the provisions “in respect of food additives and contaminants are subject to endorsement by the Codex Committees on Food Additives or on Contaminants in Foods and to	When commodity standards are sent to governments for comment at Step 3, they should contain a statement that the provisions “in respect of food additives are subject to endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and to incorporation into the General Standard for Food	

Page	Current text	Proposed new text	Comments
	incorporation into the General Standard for Food Additives or the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods.”	Additives.”	
94	When establishing provisions for food additives, Codex committees should follow the General Principles for the Use of Food Additives and the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives. Full explanation should be provided for any departure from the above recommendations.	-	The reworded section is moved up as the new third paragraph of this sub-section.
94f	When an active commodity committee exists, proposals for the use of additives in any commodity standard under consideration should be prepared by the committee concerned, and forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement. When the Codex Committee on Food Additives decides not to endorse specific additives provisions (use of the additive, or level in the end-product), the reason should be clearly stated. The section under consideration should be referred back to the Committee concerned if further information is needed, or for information if the Codex Committee on Food Additives decides to amend the provision.	When an active commodity committee exists, proposals for the use of additives in any commodity standard under consideration should be prepared by the commodity committee concerned, and forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement and inclusion in the General Standard. When the Codex Committee on Food Additives decides not to endorse specific additives provisions, the reason should be clearly stated. The section under consideration should be referred back to the commodity committee concerned, if further information is needed or for information if the Codex Committee on Food Additives decides to amend the provision.	The GSFA “should be the single authoritative reference point for food additives”, therefore all additive provisions in commodity standards should be considered to exemptions from the rule which are subject to endorsement by CCFA.
95	When no active commodity committee exists, proposals for new additive provisions or amendment of existing provisions, should be forwarded directly by member countries to the Codex Committee on Food Additives.	When no active commodity committee exists, proposals for new additive provisions or amendment of existing provisions <u>for inclusion in the General Standard</u> should be forwarded directly by Codex members to the Codex Committee on Food Additives.	No changes required.
95	Good Manufacturing Practice means that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the quantity of the additive added to food does not exceed the amount reasonably required to accomplish its intended physical nutritional or other technical effect in food; 	[To be removed]	This section is a duplication of Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of the Preamble to the GSFA; it is mentioned implicitly in the paragraphs above when reference is made to Section 3 of the Preamble. Being redundant, it should be removed from the

Page	Current text	Proposed new text	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the quantity of the additive that becomes a component of food as a result of its use in the manufacturing, processing or packaging of a food and which is not intended to accomplish any physical, or other technological effect in the food itself, is reduced to the extent reasonably possible; ▪ the additive is of appropriate food grade quality and is prepared and handled in the same way as a food ingredient. Food grade quality is achieved by compliance with the specifications as a whole and not merely with individual criteria in terms of safety. 		<p>PM increasing thereby consistency.</p> <p>Since commodity committees shall anyhow consider the whole Section 3 when discussing food additive provisions, a double entry is not necessary.</p> <p>Since GMP practice is a rather central concept, this section could also be maintained in the PM and therefore be moved to the 'Definitions for the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius', pages 42-43 of the procedural manual, where Good Agricultural Practice in the Use of Pesticides' and 'Good Practice in the use of Veterinary Drugs' are also defined.</p>
Terms of reference			
-	Codex Committee on Food Additives Terms of reference:		
-	(a) to establish or endorse permitted maximum levels for individual food additives;	(a) to establish acceptable maximum levels for individual food additives for inclusion into the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA); (b) to establish or endorse permitted maximum levels for individual food additives for inclusion into Codex commodity standards where appropriate on the basis of technological justification submitted by the commodity committees;	<p>The GSFA is agreed to be the single reference point for food additives within the Codex Alimentarius. However, in some specific cases separate or additional food additive provisions in commodity standards may continue to exist if the CCFA and the commodity committee agree it to be justified.</p> <p>A separation of both activities provides more clarity about the role of CCFA.</p>
-	(b) to prepare priority lists of food additives for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives;	(c) to prepare priority lists of food additives for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives;	Revised sequence.
-	(c) to assign functional classes to individual food additives;	(d) to assign functional classes to individual food additives;	Revised sequence.
-	(d) to recommend specifications of identity and purity for food additives for adoption by the	(e) to recommend specifications of identity and purity for food additives for adoption by the	Revised sequence.

Page	Current text	Proposed new text	Comments
	Commission;	Commission;	
-	(e) to consider methods of analysis for the determination of additives in food; and	(f) to consider methods of analysis for the determination of additives in food; and	Revised sequence.
-	(f) to consider and elaborate standards or codes for related subjects such as the labelling of food additives when sold as such.	(g) to consider and elaborate standards or codes for related subjects such as the labelling of food additives when sold as such.	Revised sequence.

Appendix II**FORMAT FOR CODEX COMMODITY STANDARDS - FOOD ADDITIVES**

This section should contain a general reference to the corresponding sections of the General Standard for Food Additives which may *take the following form*:

“ “[Food Additive functional class] used in accordance with Tables 1 and 2 of the Codex General Standard of Food Additives in food category x.x.x.x [food category name] or listed in Table 3 of the General Standard for Food Additives are acceptable for use in foods conforming to this standard.”)

Exceptions from, or addition to, the General Standard for Food Additives that are necessary for its interpretation with respect to the product concerned should be justified fully, and should be restricted where possible. In such cases the names of the additives/functional classes permitted and, where appropriate, the maximum amount permitted in the food should be prepared in accordance with guidance given in the section on Food Additives in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*, and may take the following form:

“The following provisions in respect of food additives and their specifications as contained in section of the Codex Alimentarius are subject to endorsement [have been endorsed] by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.”

Then should follow a tabulation, viz.:

“Name of additive, maximum level (in percentage or mg/kg).”

RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEES

Codex Committees may ask the advice and guidance of committees having responsibility for matters applicable to all foods on any points coming within their province.

The Codex Committees on Food Labelling; Food Additives; Contaminants in Foods; Methods of Analysis and Sampling; Food Hygiene; Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses; and Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems may establish general provisions on matters within their terms of reference. These provisions should only be incorporated into Codex Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise.

Codex Commodity standards shall contain sections on food additives, hygiene, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling and these sections should contain all of the relevant provisions of the standard. Provisions of Codex General Standards, Codes or Guidelines shall only be incorporated into Codex Commodity Standards by reference unless there is a need for doing otherwise. Where Codex Committees are of the opinion that the general provisions are not applicable to one or more commodity standards, they may request the responsible Committees to endorse deviations from the general provisions of the Codex Alimentarius. Such requests should be fully justified and supported by available scientific evidence and other relevant information. Sections on hygiene, labelling, food additives, and methods of analysis and sampling which contain specific provisions or provisions supplementing the Codex General Standards, Codes or Guidelines shall be referred to the responsible Codex Committees at the most suitable time during Steps 3, 4 and 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, though such reference should not be allowed to delay the progress of the standard to the subsequent steps of the Procedure.

Subject and commodity Committees should refer to the principles and guidelines developed by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems when developing provisions and/or recommendations on inspection and certification and make any appropriate amendments to the standards, guidelines and codes within the responsibility of the individual committees at the earliest convenient time

[FOOD LABELLING – No Changes]

FOOD ADDITIVES

Codex commodity committees shall examine the General Standard for Food Additives with a view toward incorporating a reference to the General Standard. All proposals for additions or revisions to the General Standard in order to establish a reference to the General Standard shall be referred to the Codex Committee

on Food Additives. The Codex Committee on Food Additives shall consider such proposals for endorsement. Revisions of a substantive nature that are endorsed by the Food Additives Committee will be referred back to the commodity committee in order to achieve consensus between both committees at an early stage of the step procedure.

Should the Codex commodity committee consider that a general reference to the General Standard for Food Additives does not serve its purpose, a proposal should be prepared and forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for consideration and endorsement. The commodity committee shall provide a justification for why a general reference to the General Standard would not protect consumer health, ensure fair practices in the food trade or does not meet the criteria for the use of food additives established in the Preamble of the General Standard, in particular Section 3.

When considering provisions for food additives in standards, all Codex committees should follow the guidance in the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives, specifically Section 3. Full explanation should be provided to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for any departure from this guidance.

All provisions in respect of food additives (including processing aids) contained in Codex commodity standards should be referred to the Codex Committee on Food Additives preferably before the Standards have been advanced to Step 5 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards or before they are considered by the Commodity Committee concerned at Step 7, though such referral should not be allowed to delay the progress of the Standard to the subsequent Steps of the Procedure.

All provisions in respect of food additives contained in commodity standards will require endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, on the basis of technological justification submitted by the commodity committees and on the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives concerning the safety-in-use (acceptable daily intake (ADI) and other restrictions) and an estimate of the potential and, where possible, the actual intake of the food additives, ensuring conformity with the Preamble of the General Standard for Food Additives.

When forwarding a food additive section of a commodity standard for endorsement by Codex Committee on Food Additives the Secretariat should prepare a report to the Committee that includes not only the proposed provisions for food additives but also indicates the International Numbering System (INS) number, the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) assigned by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, technological justification, proposed level, and whether the additive was previously endorsed (or temporarily endorsed by the CCFA).

When commodity standards are sent to governments for comment at Step 3, they should contain a statement that the provisions “in respect of food additives are subject to endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and to incorporation into the General Standard for Food Additives.”

When an active commodity committee exists, proposals for the use of additives in any commodity standard under consideration should be prepared by the commodity committee concerned, and forwarded to the Codex Committee on Food Additives for endorsement and inclusion in the General Standard. When the Codex Committee on Food Additives decides not to endorse specific additives provisions, the reason should be clearly stated. The section under consideration should be referred back to the commodity committee concerned if further information is needed, or for information if the Codex Committee on Food Additives decides to amend the provision.

When no active commodity committee exists, proposals for new additive provisions or amendment of existing provisions for inclusion in the General Standard should be forwarded directly by Codex members to the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

CODEx COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES -Terms of reference:

- (a) to establish acceptable maximum levels for individual food additives for inclusion into the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA);
- (b) to establish or endorse permitted maximum levels for individual food additives for inclusion into Codex commodity standards where appropriate on the basis of technological justification submitted by the commodity committees;

- (c) to prepare priority lists of food additives for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives;
- (d) to assign functional classes to individual food additives;
- (e) to recommend specifications of identity and purity for food additives for adoption by the Commission;
- (f) to consider methods of analysis for the determination of additives in food; and
- (g) to consider and elaborate standards or codes for related subjects such as the labelling of food additives when sold as such.