

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK ON
CODEX STANDARDS FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
(Continuation of work of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables –
CCPFV)**

DEADLINE: 15 June 2017

PROPOSALS Codex Secretariat
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Codex Alimentarius Commission
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INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) is the subsidiary body of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) with mandate on standardization of processed fruits vegetables which includes, but it is not limited to, canned fruits and vegetables, frozen fruits and vegetables, dry and dried products, fruit and vegetable juices and nectars, etc.¹
2. The Committee was re-established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1998 to review all the existing standards for processed fruits and vegetables to determine the need for their revision. The revision aims at updating and simplifying the standards as well as developing more inclusive standards by grouping similar products (when feasible and appropriate) as opposed to having detailed stand-alone standards in order to facilitate their uptake by Member countries.
3. When considering the status of work on the review of the standards for processed fruits and vegetables, the 28th Session of the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV28) noted a number of requests for new work, including the offer by respective countries to prepare project documents for consideration by the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) as well as lead the different electronic working groups (EWGs).
4. The Committee acknowledged the commitment of these delegations to lead new work on standards for processed fruits and vegetables and noted the support of several delegations in relation to pursuing work on revised/new standards such as simplification of existing standards for dry and dried produce and elaboration of horizontal standards on dried fruits and nuts; revision of the standards for unshelled pistachio nuts, raisins, mango chutney, canned fruit cocktail and canned tropical fruit salad (with a view to developing a standard for canned fruit salads); elaboration of standards for cashew kernels and dried longan; conversion of regional standards into worldwide standards (i.e. chili sauce), etc.
5. In recognition of the interest of many delegations on the revision of existing / development of new standards for processed fruits and vegetables, the Chair proposed that those Member countries having interest in continuing work on standardization of these products within the framework of CCPFV submit proposals for new work including project documents to CCEXEC for its consideration. Upon CCEXEC's review and the volume of new work recommended to CAC for approval, the Commission would consider approval of new work and whether a physical meeting of the Committee could be convened.²

¹ The [Terms of Reference of CCPFV](#) can be found in the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (25th Edition). Please check the Codex website (Procedures and Strategies):

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/procedures-strategies/procedural-manual/en/>

² The whole discussion on the status of work on the revision of standards for processed fruits and vegetables (including the standardization of dry and dried produce) can be found in the report of CCPFV28 ([REP17/PFV](#)). Please check the Codex website (Meetings and Reports): <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/en/>

SUMMARY STATUS OF THE REVIEW OF THE STANDARDS FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN CCPFV

6. Since the re-establishment of the Committee in 1998, the Committee has been revising and grouping, when possible and suitable, existing standards for processed fruit and vegetables into more general, horizontal standards.
7. Most of the standards and related texts for processed fruits and vegetables were developed during the 70s and 80s. Work on the review since the re-establishment of the Committee has mainly been carried out on the revision of the standards for canned fruits and vegetables and lately on the standards for quick frozen vegetables. Some work on the conversion of regional standards into worldwide standards has also been undertaken. However, the main focus of the work remains the completion of the review and, if relevant, the revision (and possible grouping) of the existing individual standards for processed fruits and vegetables.
8. At its 26th Session in 2012, the Committee considered the status of work on the review of standards for processed fruits and vegetables but decided not to take any new action in view of the ongoing work on the revision of the remaining individual standards for canned fruits and the existing individual standards for quick frozen vegetables which have been finalized by CCPFV28.
9. Pending work³ on the review⁴ of standards for processed fruits and vegetables to determine the need for their revision and possible groupings⁵ remains as follows⁶:
 - **Canned berry fruits** – Codex members may wish to consider whether the revision should address only existing individual standards for some canned berries or whether there might be an opportunity to include other relevant berry fruits in the development of a more comprehensive horizontal standard for these products.
 - **Quick frozen fruits** – the same consideration presented for canned berry fruits.
 - **Canned mixed fruits** – Codex members may wish to consider whether the revision should address (i) only the existing individual standards for canned tropical fruit salad and canned fruit cocktail while keeping well define the characteristics proper to these products or (ii) other combinations of mixed fruits available at present in international trade for inclusion in a standard for mixed canned fruits.
 - **Pickled cucumber** - The Standard for Pickled Fruits and Vegetables specifically excludes pickled cucumber from the scope. Codex members may wish to consider the priority for review of this standard in order to determine the need for their revision and the appropriateness to merge it with the Standard for Pickled Fruits and Vegetables.
 - **Mango Chutney** - Codex members may wish to consider the possibility to develop a general standard for chutneys to cover fruits and vegetables either together or separately. An alternative approach could be the revision of the standard for mango chutney only.
 - **Fungi and Fungus products** – Codex members may wish to consider how to review the standards for fungi and fungus products, edible and the standard for fungi, dried, edible to determine (i) whether they could be combined into a single general standard for fungi and fungus products; (ii) whether they should be kept separated; or (iii) the review of the standard for fungi, dried be carried out in the framework of the review of the standards for dry/dried produce.
 - **Dry and dried produce** – There are a few standards for nuts and dried fruits and vegetables that may need revision including possible consideration of group standards. The matter was considered² by CCPFV28 in view of their importance for developing countries as a large portion of the worldwide production of dry and dried produce come from these countries. Codex members may wish to consider the need to revise the existing Codex standards for dry and dried produce and whether additional work on new products would be necessary.

³ Pending work on the review of standards for processed fruits and vegetables was presented in working document [CX/PFV 16/28/7](#). Please check the CCPFV28 website:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/detail/en/?meeting=CCPFV&session=28>

⁴ Standards for processed fruits and vegetables pending review was presented in working document [CX/PFV 16/28/7-Add.1](#) (English only). Please check the CCPFV28 website.

⁵ Possible groupings of standards for processed fruits and vegetables was presented in working document [CX/PFV 16/28/7-Add.2](#) (English only). Please check the CCPFV28 website.

⁶ All standards for processed fruits and vegetables are available on the CCPFV website (Related standards) at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee-detail/en/?committee=CCPFV>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK

10. Proposals for new work on standards for processed fruits and vegetables may refer to (i) revision of existing standards for processed fruits and vegetables or (ii) development of new standards. In both cases the possibility of developing horizontal standards by grouping similar products could be considered.
11. Proposals for new work should be submitted in the format of a project document as described in the Procedural Manual¹.
12. Codex members are kindly reminded that proposals for new work will be considered by CCEXEC73 (July 2017) under the Critical Review. Depending on the volume and the robustness of the proposals for new work, the CAC40 (July 2017) will consider approval of new work and whether a physical meeting of the Committee could be convened.
13. Codex members wishing to continue work on standardization of processed fruits and vegetables in the framework of CCPFV are therefore encouraged to submit proposals for new work within the deadline indicated on the front page.