

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2023/55/OCS - SCH
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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 Comments, at Step 3, on the draft Standard for spices derived from dried fruits and berries: Part B - Requirements for Vanilla**

DEADLINE: 5 JANUARY 2024

BACKGROUND

1. For the background information, please refer to **CX/SCH 24/7/5**.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments on the Draft Standard for spices derived from dried fruits and berries (Vanilla) which is presented in Appendix I of document CX/SCH 24/7/5 and also provide clarification on section 2.2 Style with respect to the following questions:
 - a. What is "split vanilla"? Are the beans split longitudinally through their entire length? Or only the split ends? If split vanilla beans it is the latter, then,
 - i. what is the maximum length of split allowed?
 - ii. is the split limited to being along the natural suture/seam of the bean or any vertical split of the ends of the bean?
 - iii. is there any requirement for the split part of the bean to contain vanilla seeds/caviar?
 - iv. is there an allowance for split beans among whole? Or can the entire lot be split beans only?
 - b. How does the splitting of vanilla affect moisture and vanillin content – at it exposes a greater surface of the vanilla bean to the atmosphere.
3. When providing comments on the abovementioned issues/questions, members and observers should review the summary of discussion, analysis and conclusions presented in document CX/SCH 24/7/5, which is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, as per the guidance below.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

4. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
5. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting "Enter" in the "My reviews" page, available after login to the system.
6. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide general comments at the document level. Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
7. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>.
8. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.