

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2023/84/OCS-FFV
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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 6 on the draft standard for fresh dates

DEADLINE: 31 January 2024

BACKGROUND

1. After a lengthy discussion, CCFFV22 agreed to maintain the requirement for moisture content of fresh dates within the range of 30-85% in the draft standard for fresh dates. CCFFV22 further agreed to forward the draft standard to CAC45 for adoption at Step 5/8.
2. Noting the divergent views expressed by delegations regarding the minimum value for moisture content in the standard, CAC45 adopted the draft standard for fresh dates at Step 5 and requested that CCFFV further consider the draft standard at its next session.
3. For more detailed information, please refer to REP22/FFV para 78 and Appendix IV as well as REP22/CAC, paras 60 – 61, Appendix III.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

4. Codex Members and Observers are invited to submit comments at Step 6 on the draft standard for fresh dates, especially, addressing the following three questions:
 - a. Whether it is necessary to include the minimum moisture content requirement under Section 3.1.1 (Minimum maturity requirements).
 - b. If the answer to a) is yes, what value would be most appropriate, along with the corresponding scientific justification.
 - c. If the answer to a) is no, provide justification for your response along with alternative proposal for moisture content requirement.
5. The draft standard for fresh dates is uploaded to the Online Commenting System: <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>. Comments should be submitted following the guidance below.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

6. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers using the OCS.
7. 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.
8. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers organizations are requested to provide general comments of substantive nature. Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
9. 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/>.
10. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.