

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

Agenda Item 7(a), 7(b), 7(c), 7(d), 7(e), 7(f)

CRD08  
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

50<sup>th</sup> Session  
Haikou, PR. China, 9 - 14 April 2017

Comments at Agenda Item 7(a), submitted by Thailand.

### REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED: CLASS A: PRIMARY FOOD COMMODITIES OF PLANT ORIGIN TYPE 04: NUTS, SEEDS AND SAPS Group 025 - Tree saps

#### Thailand

Thailand agrees in principle with the classification of Group 025, in which we have two commodities, which are important to our sugar production industry and thus our economics, may be able to be classified into this group. These are Coconut sap (*Cocos nucifera* L.) and Palmyra Palm sap (*Borassus flabellifer* Linn.). The sap of these two commodities, however, is obtained from inflorescence, which is different from the description of tree saps specified in Appendix IV of CX/PR 18/50/6. Example photos of retrieving inflorescence saps as illustrated below.

Thailand is of the opinion that these commodities can be added in Group 025. If so, we would also like to modify the description of tree saps to include the details of Coconut sap (*Cocos nucifera* L.) and Palmyra Palm sap (*Borassus flabellifer* Linn.).



Photos obtained from [http://xn--42c4a5aannaa8a4a6d0a8fvl.blogspot.com/2013/05/blog-post\\_6659.html](http://xn--42c4a5aannaa8a4a6d0a8fvl.blogspot.com/2013/05/blog-post_6659.html)



**Comments at Agenda Item 7(b) , submitted by Japan and Thailand.**

**REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED:  
CLASS A: PRIMARY FOOD COMMODITIES OF PLANT ORIGIN  
TYPE 05: HERBS AND SPICES  
GROUP 027 HERBS  
GROUP 028 SPICES**

**Japan**

Japan appreciates the efforts of the United States of America and the Netherlands in leading the electronic working group (eWG) for preparing the draft revision of the Codex Classification for Group 027 Herbs and Group 028 Spices (CX/PR 18/50/7). Japan would like to provide the following comments:

**Comments on the location of Subgroup 028H and 028I**

Japan considers it appropriate to include the proposed Subgroup 028H Spices, Citrus Peel and 028I Dried Chili Peppers in Class A Primary Food Commodities of Plant Origin rather than in Class D Processed Foods of Plant Origin. As commodities proposed for inclusion in Group 028 Spices are similar in that they are primarily marketed and consumed in the dried form, they should be included in the same Class for consistency.

Japan considers it appropriate to include dried chili peppers in Subgroup 028B Spices, Fruit or Berry as chili pepper is a type of fruiting vegetables and establishing Subgroup 028I consists of only one commodity may not be necessary.

**Comments on caraway fruit**

Not only caraway but also cumin, dill and fennel etc. belong to *Apiaceae* and their seeds (botanically “fruits”) are used as spices. Their size and morphology are similar, which indicates that these commodities should be grouped together for consistency. Therefore HS 0774 Caraway, ~~seedfruit~~ should be included in Subgroup 028A Spices, Seeds like other “seeds” of plants belonging to *Apiaceae*.

**Comments on perilla seed**

The commodity name “Perilla, seeds” appears twice in the working documents. While SO 3145 Perilla seed is proposed to be included in Group 023 Oilseeds (Appendix II of CX/PR 18/50/6), HS 3298 Perilla, seed is proposed to be included in Group 028 Spices (Appendix I of CX/PR 18/50/7). While the seeds of “*Perilla frutescens* (L.) Britton var. *frutescens*” is commonly used as oilseeds, those of “*Perilla frutescens* (L.) Britton var. *crispa* (Thunb.) W. Deane” is used in small quantities as raw ingredients of condiments (Note: Leaves of the two varieties are also consumed and already in different groups: Group 013 Leafy Vegetable and Group 027 Herbs).

In view of the fact that these two commodities belong to the same species and the decision made by the 49<sup>th</sup> CCPR “to include a commodity only in one group or subgroup to avoid confusion of having two CXLs for the same commodity,” Japan would like to propose the following amendments:

#### SO 3145 Perilla seed

*Perilla frutescens* (L.) Britton var. *crispa* (Thunb.) W. Deane, and var. *frutescens*.

HS 3298 Perilla, seed, see SO 3145 Perilla seed

~~*Perilla frutescens* (L.) Britton var. *crispa* (Thunb.) W. Deane~~

#### Other comments

For consistency with “HH 3232 Japanese pepper leaves *Zanthoxylum piperitum* (L.) DC.” in Group 027 Herbs, Japan would like to propose the following editorial amendments:

#### HS 3299 Japanese Anise pepper

*Zanthoxylum piperitum* (L.) DC.

#### HS 3298 Pepper, Sichuan

*Zanthoxylum bungeanum* Maxim.; *Z. schinifolium* Siebold & Zucc.;

*Z. simulans* Hance; ~~*Z. piperitum* (L.) DC~~

It seems that the code number HS 3298 is allocated for both Pepper, Sichuan and Perilla, seed. This code number needs to be allocated for either one of the two commodities.

For consistency with the scientific name of already adopted VL 2786 Wasabi leaves, Japan would like to propose the following editorial amendments:

- Wasabi, leaves, see Subgroup 013B Brassica leafy vegetables, VL 2786

~~*Eutrema japonica* (Miq.) Koidz~~ *Wasabia japonica* (Miq.) Matsum.

#### **Thailand**

Thailand has three comments on this agenda

(1) Thailand supports the retention of dried chili peppers in subgroup 028I. We do not support moving the commodity to Class D Processed foods of Plant Origin as the consumption pattern of dried chili peppers, as a seasoning, is different to other commodities in Class D. Dried chili peppers should not be moved to 028B Spices, fruit or berry, as well because the residue patterns are different. If the commodity were to be moved to this group, it may cause the complication in MRL setting as group MRL for 028B may not be applicable to dried chili peppers.

(2) For citrus peel, Thailand is of the opinion that its context is similar to dried chili peppers, discussed above. That is, citrus peel is consumed as herb, not as vegetables therefore should be retained in subgroup 028H.

(3) Thailand would like to provide information on the consumption pattern of perilla seed is similar to sesame seed, that is can be consumed as seed itself or used for oil production. The oil from perilla seed is known to have high in Omega 3. Therefore, we would like to seek the Committee’s opinion on the suitability of the perilla seed to be in classified in spices or should be moved to Oil Seed Group.

**Comments at Agenda Item 7(c) , submitted by Canada, European Union and Kenya.**

### **REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED: IMPACT OF REVISED COMMODITY GROUPS AND SUBGROUPS IN TYPE 03 GRASSES, TYPE 04 NUTS, SEEDS AND SAPS AND TYPE 05 HERBS AND SPICES ON CODEX MRLS**

#### **Canada**

#### BACKGROUND

One of the terms of reference from CCPR49 (2017) was to consider how the Codex MRLs adopted by CAC and available in the existing Codex database for maximum residue limits for pesticides would be impacted by the revised commodity groups and subgroups in Types 03, 04 and 05.

The Committee has previously agreed that “no changes would be made to existing CXLs until such time as JMPR reviews were completed as per current procedures for the establishment of Codex schedules and priority list of pesticides. The Committee agreed that the same approach would be taken when reviewing other commodity groups in the database following the adoption of revised commodity groups in the Classification”.

To achieve the above, a specific CXL at the level of the old group-CLX for the relocated commodity will keep its existing CXL, and at the same time the commodity will be excluded from the new group-CXL. The exclusion of the CXL from the new group-CXL will be done in the column "notes". After evaluation by JMPR, it may be appropriate to implement the CXL of the new (sub)group and withdraw the CXL of the old group.

### CURRENT STATUS

CX/PR 18/50/8 contains the classification of the commodities in Types 03, 04, and 05 and includes a brief description of the changes to the commodities affected by the revisions to the groups within Types 03, 04, and 05.

Type 03 Grasses:

- This Type was finalized by CCPR49 (2017) and adopted by CAC40 (2017) for inclusion into the Classification of Food and Feed. Therefore, any consequential amendments to CXLs in the database as proposed in CX/PR 18/50/8 can be implemented by the Codex Secretariat with the agreement of the Committee.

Type 04 Nuts, seeds, and saps

- This Type is pending finalization at this session of CCPR. Groups 022 and 023 within this type were finalized by CCPR and retained at Step 7 awaiting finalization of the other two groups in the type, namely Groups 024 and 025. Any amendments to existing CXLs in the database as proposed in CX/PR 18/50/8 are contingent on the agreements reached at the current session of CCPR50 for Groups 024 and 025.

Type 05 Herbs and Spices

- This Type was finalized by CCPR however specific comments have been requested on additional commodities for inclusion in Group 027 Herbs and 028 Spices to be discussed under CCPR50 Agenda item 7(b). Any amendments to existing CXLs in the database as proposed in CX/PR 18/50/8 are contingent on the agreements reached at the current session of CCPR on the inclusion of these additional commodities.

Members of CCPR are invited to consider the changes recommended in CX/PR 18/50/8 with respect to changes to existing CXLs as a result of the revisions to the Codex Classification of Food and Feed for Types 03, 04 and 05 such that these changes can be implemented.

### **Canada's Position on the impact of revised commodity groups and subgroups in Types 03, 04, and 05 on Codex MRLs:**

- As a member of the Electronic Working Group on the Revision of the Classification, Canada provided comments through this working group on the impact to existing CXLs as a result of changes to the groups and subgroups within types 03, 04 and 05.
- Canada is in agreement with the proposed changes to existing CXLs as outlined in Appendices I (Type 03), II (Type 04), and III (Type 05) of CX/PR 18/50/8.

### **European Union**

#### *European Union Competence*

#### *European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group (eWG) on the revision of the Classification of food and feed chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands for the preparation of the document CX/PR 18/50/8.

The EU has no comments to the information presented in the Appendixes I, II and III of the document and agrees that the proposed changes will be implemented in the Codex database, following the agreement on the revised classification of the Types 03, 04 and 05.

### **Kenya**

**Position:** Kenya supports the proposed changes for moving commodities within Type 03 from other groups i.e. sweet corn (corn and cob) sweet corn (whole kernel) from the vegetable group to the cereal group to exclude both sweet corn from the new group CXL of cereals. The note "excluding sweet corn" has to be added to be added to the code GC 0080 Group cereal grains and the code GC 0081 subgroup of cereal grains except pseudo cereals. At the same time the groups CXLs of vegetable group and the subgroup fruiting vegetables and other cucurbits has to be added to both sweet corns. We support under Type 05 commodities moving to herbs and spices from other groups, pepper leaves moved from the leafy vegetable group to the Herbs and spices groups.

To exclude pepper leaves from the new group CXLs of herbs and spices the note “excluding pepper leaves” has to be added to the group code HH0092 herbs and the subgroup code HH 2095. Kenya supports the existing CXLs for herbs HH0092 has to be individual CXL to those commodities.

**Rationale:** This is in line with CCPR49 decision that specific CXLs of the old group CXL for the relocated commodity will keep its existing CXL and at the same time the commodity will be excluded from the new group CXLs. The exclusion of the CXL from the new group CXL will be done in the column notes. After evaluation by JMPR it may be appropriate to implement the CXL of the new subgroup and withdrawal of the CXL of the old group.

**Comments at Agenda Item 7(d), submitted by Thailand.**

**REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED:  
CLASS C – PRIMARY FEED COMMODITIES  
TYPE 11 – PRIMARY FEED COMMODITIES OF PLANT ORIGIN  
Group 050 - Legume feeds  
Group 051 - Straw, fodder and forage of cereal grains  
Group 052 - Miscellaneous fodder and forage crops**

**Thailand**

Thailand would like to add Pangula hay (*Digitaria eriantha*) and Cavalcade or Centurion hay (*Centrosema pascuorum* cv. Cavalcade) as these two commodities are very important animal feed in our country.

For the wording between fodder and others, we have a general opinion that any term used should be clearly defined for the ease of different countries who may not be familiar with animal feed.

**Comments at Agenda Item 7(e), submitted by Japan and Thailand.**

**REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED:  
TABLE 4 – EXAMPLES OF REPRESENTATIVE COMMODITIES FOR  
TYPE 04 – NUTS, SEEDS AND SAPS AND  
TABLE 5 – EXAMPLES OF REPRESENTATIVE COMMODITIES FOR  
TYPE 05 – HERBS AND SPICES**

**Japan**

Japan appreciates the efforts of the United States of America and the Netherlands in leading the electronic working group (eWG) for preparing the proposed draft Tables 4 and 5 on the examples of representative commodities for Type 04 and 05 (CX/PR 18/50/10). Japan would like to provide the following comments:

**Comments on whether to exclude specific subgroup from the CXL of Group 023 Oilseeds in Table 4**

Japan notes that the Codex MRLs for Group 023 Oilseeds are currently established for some pesticides on the basis of the supervised residue trials data on some major commodities of this group such as rapeseed, sunflower seed, cotton seed and peanut, which indicates that the residue data on major commodities could cover those on commodities in Subgroup 023D Other Oilseeds provided that the GAP for these commodities are same or similar. Therefore it is not necessary to preclude a possibility to establish a Codex MRL for Group 023 Oilseeds (including Subgroup 023D Other Oilseeds) and the crossed out commodities in Table 4 should be retained in the Table.

As the morphology and size of “fruit” commodities proposed for inclusion in Subgroup 023E Oilfruits are significantly different from those of “seed” commodities in other subgroups, group Codex MRL except Subgroup 023E should be established in the absence of the residue data on representative commodities for Subgroup 023E (see also comments on Agenda Item 7(a)).

The name of Group 023 “Oilseeds and Oilfruits” in Table 4 should be amended to the name of the revised Group 023 as agreed under Agenda Item 7(a) for consistency.

**Thailand**

Thailand agrees in principle with the examples of representative commodities for commodity group in Type 04 and Type 05. However, we note a typo of the examples of representative commodities in Table 5 of Group 027A, 027B and 027C as they show “or leaf lettuce or spinach”, hence this should be deleted.

As a result, the examples of representative commodities for Group 027 Herbs should be “Basil and Mint and any commodity in subgroup 027B and any commodity in subgroup 027C”.

**Comments at Agenda Item 7(f) , submitted by Japan.****DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM WITHIN THE CLASSIFICATION TO PROVIDE CODES FOR COMMODITIES NOT MEETING THE CRITERIA FOR CROP GROUPING****Japan**

Japan appreciates the efforts of the United States of America and the Netherlands in leading the electronic working group (eWG) for preparing the working document for the development of a system within the classification to provide codes for commodities not meeting the criteria for crop grouping(CX/PR 18/50/11). Japan would like to provide the following comments:

During the discussion of the eWG, Japan expressed preference for Option 1 to create a separate Type within each Class to provide a list of commodities and codes that do not meet the criteria for inclusion in commodity group (e.g. water chestnuts, fox nut and lotus seed).

However, establishing and maintaining such list of commodities would take time with little benefit. There seems to be little chance for the establishment of Codex MRLs for the listed commodities considering that they are expected to be minor in terms of consumption and trade, and that it is not possible to select representative commodities.

Japan is of the view the Committee should devote valuable but limited resources to the issues highly relevant to protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade rather than the issues on commodities not meeting the criteria for commodity grouping.