

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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**Agenda Item 4 (d)**

**CX/MMP 02/9 - Add. 1  
April 2002**

## **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS**

#### **Fifth Session**

**Wellington, New Zealand, 8-12 April 2002**

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO WORKING DOCUMENT CX/MMP 02/9**

**PROCESSED CHEESE (MINIMUM CHEESE CONTENT)  
INCLUDING COMMENTS SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO CL 2001/20-MMP**

(Prepared by France, United States of America, and International Dairy Federation)

## **BACKGROUND**

At the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCMMP, the Committee agreed<sup>1</sup> that the Codex Secretariat, in collaboration with France, the United States and IDF, would prepare a circular letter to obtain information and data on minimum cheese contents in processed cheeses as well as comments on the two alternative proposals :

The product is qualified by a cheese content, in quantity or characterization terms, and ;  
Cheese is a significant ingredient of processed cheese and cheese preparation,  
and on any other relevant points.

The Committee also agreed to seek information on methods of analysis used at the national level to determine cheese content in processed cheese. It was further agreed that France, the United States and IDF would collate and present the information to the next session of the Committee so as to further examine the prospect of establishing an absolute minimum cheese content for processed cheeses or alternative approaches.

## **CIRCULAR LETTER CL 2001/20-MMP**

Circular letter CL 2001/20-MMP was issued in July 2001, requesting information on minimum cheese contents in national legislation, and on the two alternative proposals by 1 November 2001.

20 member countries replied to the Circular Letter, as follows: Argentina, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay. No replies were received from international organizations. The responses of the above countries are compiled in Annex 1.

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<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 01/11, para 77.

## SUMMARY OF REPLIES TO CL 2001/20-MMP

### 1. *Do your national regulations set a minimum cheese content requirement?*

	Processed cheese	Processed cheese * Preparations	Processed cheese bearing a variety name
as a figure	4	3	6
in another manner	6	1	5
both as a figure and in another manner	1	1	3
No minimum	9	14	6
TOTAL Answers	20	19	20

\*\*See detailed table annexed

### 2. *Can you agree with the proposal that: "the product is qualified by a cheese content, in quantity or characterization terms"?*

Response	Processed cheese	Processed cheese preparations
Yes	12	7
No	6	10
No reply	1	2
Combine proposals	1	1
TOTAL Answers	20	20

\*\*See detailed table annexed

### 3. *Can you agree with the proposal that: "cheese is a significant ingredient of ...."?*

Response	Processed cheese	Processed cheese preparations
Yes	10	7
No	9	10
No reply		2
Combine proposals	1	1
TOTAL Answers	20	20

### 4. *Does your country have a national method of analysis?*

No : 19

No reply: 1

## RECOMMENDATION TO THE 5<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE CCMMP

The Committee is invited to take note of the replies to the Circular Letter and to consider how the Committee should proceed with this issue.