

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CCFA)

Invitation to participate in the electronic Working Group (EWG) on the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) to the 53rd CCFA

Dear Colleagues:

The 52nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) that was held virtually from 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 10 September 2021, agreed to establish an EWG on the GSFA, led by the United States of America (USA), and working in English only, to consider (REP 21/FA para. 183):

- (i) The result of review of 87th JECFA on CAROTENOIDS as well as discussion at CCFA52 on agenda item 3(a) (see para. 60);
- (ii) Replies from CCPFV on:
 - a. tartrates (INS 334, 335(ii), 337) in FC 04.1.2.6 "Fruit based spreads (e.g. chutney), excluding products in FC 04.1.2.5";
 - b. acidity regulators in general, and tartrates (INS 334, 335(ii), 337) specifically in FC 04.1.2.2 "Dried fruit";
 - c. emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners in general, and xanthan gum (INS 415) specifically, in FC 14.1.2 "Fruit and vegetable juices" and its subcategories and FC 14.1.3 "Fruit and vegetable nectar" and its subcategories. This would also include tamarind seed polysaccharide (INS 437) in FCs 14.1.3.1, 14.1.3.2, 14.1.3.3, and 14.1.3.4 as listed in Annex 3 Part D of CRD2;
 - d. colours in the Annex on French fried potatoes of the *Standard for Quick Frozen Vegetables* (CXS 320-2015);
 - e. acidity regulators in general, and calcium lactate (INS 327) specifically, in FC 14.1.2.1 "Fruit juice" generally, and in Chinese plum juice specifically;
 - f. acidity regulators in general, and phosphates (INS 338; 339(i)-(iii); 340(i)-(iii); 341(i)-(iii); 342(i)-(ii); 343(i)-(iii); 450(i)-(iii),(v)-(vii), (ix); 451(i),(ii); 452(i) (v);542) and tartrates (INS 334, 335(ii), 337) specifically in FC 14.1.2.2 "Vegetable juice", FC 14.1.2.4 "Concentrates for vegetable juice", FC 14.1.3.2 "Vegetable nectar", and FC 14.1.3.4 "Concentrates for vegetable nectar" and the maximum use levels needed to achieve the intended technological effect;
 - g. tamarind seed polysaccharide (INS 437) in the *Standard for Pickled Cucumbers* (CXS 115-1981);
- (iii) The appropriateness of the proposals listed in Appendix 1 of CX/FA 21/52/2 pertaining to notes associated with food additives contained under group headers;
- (iv) Whether the notes in the GSFA linked to aspartame (INS 951), acesulfame potassium (INS 950) and the aspartame-acesulfame salt (INS 962) are aligned and revise related provisions in the GSFA accordingly;
- (v) The provision for propylene glycol alginate (INS 405) in FC 01.1.2 for comment on the specific use level and technological justifications for the use level (CRD2, Annex 3 Part B);

- (vi) Draft and proposed draft provisions for sweeteners in FC 14.1.5 for comment on the actual use level as well as the reporting basis for any provided use level (CRD2, Annex 3 Part E);
- (vii) The requests from agenda item 5c: draft and proposed draft sweetener provisions still in the Step Process in the Food Categories listed in Appendix 1 of CX/FA 21/52/9 (see para. 173(iii)a));
- (viii) The requests from agenda item 5c: discuss provisions with Note 161 attached to them in FCs 05.1.1, 07.1 and 12.2 and its subcategories (see para. 173(iii)b));
- (ix) Draft and proposed draft provisions for sweeteners in all FCs of the GSFA not covered by the topics (vi), (vii), and (viii); and
- (x) Provisions entered at Step 2 of the GSFA contained in CRD2 Annex 5.

Therefore, the USA requests Codex Members and Observers interested in participating in this EWG to provide their contact information, including name(s), affiliation, and e-mail address to Dr. Paul Honigfort (ccfa@cfsan.fda.gov) by **5 January 2021**.

Proposed Working Schedule for the EWG:

- 8 April 2022: Circulation of background information and request for EWG member comments
- 6 May 2022: Deadline for submission of comments.
- 3 June 2022: Circulation of first draft consensus recommendations to the EWG members
- 1 July 2022: Deadline for submission of comments on first draft consensus recommendations
- 29 July 2022: Circulation of second draft consensus recommendations to the EWG members (Optional)
- 26 August 2022: Deadline for submission of comments on second draft consensus recommendations (Optional)
- 4 November: Submission of final report of the EWG to the Codex Secretariat

Full and constructive participation by Codex Members and Observers will enable the EWG to have a robust discussion and will lead to constructive recommendations on this issue for consideration by the 53rd CCFA. We look forward to working with Codex Members and Observers on this important project.

Sincerely,

Paul Honigfort, Ph.D.
U.S.A. Delegate to CCFA