



Report of the U.S. Delegate, 24th Session, Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

The 24th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils ([CCFO](#)) met in Melaka, Malaysia, February 9-13, 2015. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Noraini Mohd Othman, Senior Director for Food Safety, Ministry of Health Malaysia. The Session was attended by participants from 40 Member countries, one Member organization and five International organizations.

The United States (U.S.) Delegation was led by Dr. Paul South (Head of Delegation) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, and Dr. Robert Moreau (Alternate Delegate) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. There was also one additional U.S. government representative and one non-governmental adviser on the U.S. Delegation.

The full report of the 24th Session of the CCFO can be found in REP 15/FO, posted on the Codex website at: http://www.codexalimentarius.org/download/report/919/REP15_FOe.pdf. The following is a summary of issues raised during the meeting.

- **Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees**

- **Monitoring of Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019**

The Committee agreed to forward Committee responses to questions on Codex Strategic Plan activities to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for consideration.

The United States supported the responses developed to the various questions in line with Strategic Plan activities relevant to the work of the CCFO.

- **Provision of the Standard on Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CODEX STAN 33-1981)**

The Committee agreed to inform the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) that ISO 12228:1999 was withdrawn and replaced by ISO 12228-1:2014 and ISO 12228-2, and that ISO 12228-2:2014 and COI/T.20/Doc. No. 30 were equivalent.

The United States supported these changes/updates to the methods.

- **Replacement of the IUPAC Method for Relative Density**

The Committee determined that the equivalent methods for relative density were ISO 6883:2007 and AOCS Cc 10c-95, and that these methods were harmonized by the relevant committees of both organizations.

The United States supported this decision at the Session.

- **Proposed Draft Standard for Fish Oils**

Substantial progress was made on the proposed draft Standard at this Session. However, there were additional issues that need to be addressed including information on fatty acid composition for named fish oil and fish liver oil found in Table 1 of the proposed draft Standard.

The Committee agreed to issue a Circular Letter (CL) requesting additional information on fatty acid composition of anchovy and krill oils as well as proposals for alternative text for Section 7.3 “Other Labeling Requirements.”

The Committee also agreed to establish a physical Working Group (pWG), chaired by Switzerland, meeting prior to the next session of the CCFO, scheduled for February 2017, to discuss comments received in response to the CL and comments received at Step 6 and to prepare a report for consideration by the Plenary.

In addition, the Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft Standard to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption at Step 5. The Committee also agreed to forward the provisions for food additives, methods of analysis and sampling to the relevant committees for endorsement.

The United States is satisfied that the draft standard progressed to Step 5 and will actively follow further developments of this document, both in contributing relevant information to the CL and in participating in the pWG prior to the next Session.

- **Review of the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes**

The Committee agreed to the following:

- To forward agreed upon amendments to Appendix 2: List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes found in the *Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Fats and Oils in Bulk* (CAC/RCP 36-1987) to the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
- To forward 23 substances to FAO and WHO for evaluation;
- To request the Codex Secretariat to issue a CL inviting interested members and observer organizations to propose further amendments to Appendix 2: List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes found in the *Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Fats and Oils in Bulk* (CAC/RCP 36-1987);



- To establish an electronic Working Group (eWG), led by Malaysia, with the following Terms of Reference: To consider proposals from members on new substances to be added to the List, provided such proposals are supported by adequate and relevant information provided by the proponent.

The United States is pleased with the progress made at this Session on the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes and supports the review of the 23 substances by FAO and WHO.

- **Reference to Acceptance/Voluntary Application in Codex Standards**

The Committee agreed to retain the provisions in Tables 3 and 4 in the Appendix of the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CODEX STAN 210-1999) and that proposals for transferring provisions from the Appendix to the main body should be considered only after reviewing the parameters.

The Committee also agreed to issue a CL requesting whether other provisions other than those in Tables 3 and 4 in the Appendix of the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CODEX STAN 210-1999) should be transferred into the main body of the Standard.

The United States supports the approach agreed to by the Committee.

- **Discussion Papers on the Amendment of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999)**

- **Sunflowerseed Oils – Revision of Limits of Oleic and Linoleic Acids**

The Committee agreed to establish an eWG, led by Argentina and co-chaired by Brazil, with the following Terms of Reference: “To revise the discussion paper and project document on the basis of the data received with respect to ranges of oleic and linoleic acids values and related quality composition factors in sunflowerseed oil for consideration at its next Session.”

The Committee also agreed to issue a CL to request information, in particular on deviating parameters of sunflowerseed oil for consideration by the eWG.

The United States generally supports the effort and plans to participate in the eWG and will submit any relevant information to the CL once it is issued.

- **Soybean Oil – High Oleic Acid**

The Committee agreed to discontinue consideration of the Discussion Paper and noted that the United States would resubmit a proposal for amending the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CODEX STAN 210-1999) to include high oleic soybean oil



when higher volumes of this oil are traded internationally.

- **Palm Oil – High Oleic Acid**

The Committee agreed to new work on the revision of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999) to include palm oil with high oleic acid.

The Committee also agreed to establish an eWG, led by Colombia and co-chaired by Ecuador, to prepare a proposed draft revision of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999), for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at its next session.

The United States generally supports the effort, and plans to participate in the eWG upon its establishment.

- **Peanut Oil – Fatty Acid Composition and Other Quality Factors**

The Committee agreed to new work on revision of the fatty acid composition and other quality factors of peanut oil in the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999).

The Committee also agreed to establish an eWG, led by Argentina, to prepare the proposed draft revision for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration by the next session of the Committee.

The United States generally supports the effort, and plans to participate in the eWG upon its establishment.

- **Sunflowerseed Oils – High Stearic and High Oleic**

The Committee agreed to discontinue consideration on this matter.

- **Discussion Paper on Cold Pressed Oils**

The Committee agreed to establish an eWG, led by Iran, to revise the discussion paper including a project document, taking into account comments made at the 24th Session of the CCFO and based on the Guideline for Application of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities Applicable to Commodities and information as required by the CCFO when proposing the addition of new oils to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CODEX STAN 210-1999) agreed by the 16th Session of the CCFO, for consideration at its next Session.

The Committee also agreed to amend the title of discussion paper and project



document to read “Amendment to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999) to include walnut oil, almond oil, hazelnut oil, pistachio oil, flaxseed oil and avocado oil”.

The United States generally supports the effort, and plans to participate in the eWG upon its establishment.

- **Discussion Papers on the Amendment of the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CODEX STAN 33-1988).**

- **Content of Delta-7-Stigmastenol**

The Committee agreed to discontinue consideration on this matter, noting that no document had been submitted since the 22nd Session of the Committee.

- **Revision for the Limit for Campesterol**

The Committee agreed to new work on the revision of Section 3 of the Standard for Olive Oil and Olive Pomace Oil (CODEX STAN 33-1988). The Committee also agreed to establish an eWG, led by Argentina and co-chaired by Australia and Italy, to prepare a proposed draft revision of Section 3, as described in the project document, for circulation and comments at Step 3 and consideration at the next session of the Committee.

The United States strongly supports the effort, and plans to participate in the eWG upon its establishment.

- **Discussion Paper on the Amendment of the Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk (CAC/RCP 36-1987)**

The Committee noted that there was not sufficient support to initiate new work and agreed to discontinue consideration on this matter.

- **Other Business and Future Work**

- **Proposed Draft Amendments to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Replacement of Acid Value with Free Fatty Acids for Virgin Palm Oils**

The Committee agreed that Malaysia would prepare a discussion paper including a project document, taking into account comments made at the 24th Session of the Committee for consideration at the next Session.

The United States generally supports the effort, and looks forward to reviewing the



discussion paper at the next Session.

- **Proposed draft Amendment to the Standard for Named Animal Fats (CODEX STAN 211-1999): Inclusion of Unrefined Edible Tallow**

The Committee supported the proposal and agreed that Australia would prepare a discussion paper including a project document to revise the Standard for Named Animal Fats (CODEX STAN 211-1999) to include unrefined edible tallow, and based on the Guidelines for Application of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities Applicable to Commodities, for consideration at the next Session.

The United States generally supports the effort, and looks forward to reviewing the discussion paper at the next Session.

- **Proposed draft Amendment to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Inclusion of Quality Parameters of Crude Rice Bran Oil**

The Committee agreed that India would prepare a discussion paper, including a project document for consideration at its next session. The proposal should be based on the Guideline for Application of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities Applicable to Commodities and include information as required by CCFO when proposing the addition of new oils to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999), as agreed by 16th Session of the CCFO.

The United States generally supports the effort, and looks forward to reviewing the discussion paper at the next Session.

- **Date and Place of the Next Session**

The Committee was informed that the next session was tentatively scheduled to be held in Malaysia from February 27 to March 3, 2017. The exact time and venue would be decided between the Malaysian and Codex Secretariats.