



## Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

**Last Meeting:** 52nd Session, 6 – 10 September 2021, VIRTUAL

**Full Report** of the 52nd Session - [Link to Report & Agenda](#)

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFA&session=52>

**Next meeting:** 53rd Session – TBA (Likely to be in March 2023 ie in 18 months time)

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New Zealand attended the 52nd Session virtually. The Main outcomes of importance to NZ were as follows:

- Over 500 new and amended GSFA food additive provisions were agreed.
- There was disagreement on the technological need for trisodium citrate in UHT or sterilised milk, particularly from African nations. This resulted in the provision being held, while information on technological justification is collected, via a Circular Letter (CL). Brazil will then prepare a discussion paper based on the responses.
- It was agreed that new types of steviol glycosides could be included in the GSFA group heading, noting that a framework has been adopted for developing JECFA specifications for steviol glycosides by four different methods of production.
- In response to JECFA's withdrawal of ADIs for synthetic carotenoids, due to risks to heavy smokers, CCFA52 agreed to refer the affected carotenoids to the GSFA EWG, mainly to consider revisions to the group header. Many agreed that it was not appropriate to remove the food additives provisions from the GSFA and that CCFA should carefully consider any consequential actions.
- JECFA89 was not able to consider all compounds proposed for evaluation, including nisin (INS 234) and natamycin (INS 235)) which are expected to be evaluated in 2023.
- Agreement to endorse the food additive provisions in the guidelines for ready to use therapeutic foods (RUTF) and to include the guidelines in future Alignment work with the other CCNFSDU standards.
- Agreement to inclusion of xanthan gum (INS 415) and pectins (INS 440) in FC 13.1.3 "Formulae for special medical purposes for infants" of the GSFA.
- Alignment of nine standards for milk and milk products including cheeses standards.



- Provisions for sweeteners associated with note 161 were agreed. The EWG on GSFA will revise sweetener provisions still in the step process. The Codex Secretariat will prepare a paper for CCFA53 to review adopted sweeteners in the GSFA that do not have note 161. (Note 161 subjects Codex additive provisions to national legislation and therefore is considered to potentially undermine Codex standards).
- JECFA secretariat noted that the available data on nitrates and nitrites were not sufficient to support a re-evaluation. CCFA52 requested a further CL (same as the earlier CL 2019/49-FA) be issued to aim to collect any more information on data related to nitrates and nitrites.
- The Committee agreed for the colour, titanium dioxide to be re-evaluated for safety by the JECFA. This follows safety concerns raised in a recent European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) re-evaluation. EFSA concluded that while the evidence for general toxic effects was not conclusive, they could no longer establish a safe level for daily intake of the food additive. JECFA will issue a call for data with a risk assessment to begin in 2024. The risk to international trade of removing titanium dioxide from food was noted, as it is widely used as a food additive internationally.
- A discussion paper on mapping food categories of the GSFA to the European FoodEx2 database, and the paper will be co-authored by Canada, Australia and Japan and be presented in December 2023.
- Chile, the European Union, and the USA will co-author a discussion paper on the use of certain food additives in wine production, for discussion at the next meeting. There was general support to reactivate work in wine additives in the GSFA, provided there was a clear/constructive way forward. Work on wine additives in the GSFA stopped in 2017 due a lack of agreement on the role of the International for Wine (OIV).