



GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY
SCIENCE SOCIETY



A r a b
C O D E X

Review of outputs of CCNFSDU43 Committee

11-6-2023

Background

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES (CCNFSDU)

- ❑ Date: 07 – 10 March and 15 March 2023
- ❑ Session: 43
- ❑ Location: Düsseldorf, Germany

Delegations of Egypt

- 1- Dr. Rasha Salaheldin Kamel Galal**- Head of the Department -Egyptian National Food Safety Authority
- 2- Prof Mervat Ahmed Fouad Nasr**- Consultant of Special Food and Pharmacognosy National Nutrition Institute (NNI)
- 3- Dr. Adel Ismail**- Research and Development Director Hero Middle East & Africa
- 4- Dr. Shaymaa Sarhan** - Regulatory and Scientific Affairs Manager- Nestle
- 5- Dr. Haidy Mohyeldin Hamdy Abdelkarim** -Scientific Regulatory Affairs Manager (Egypt, North Africa and Levant)- PEPSICO
- 6- Eng Mohamed Naser** - Technical Secretariat for Foods for Special Dietary Uses Committee -Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS)

7-15.03.23



Arab Delegations

ALGERIA : (1)

MOROCCO : (3)

OMAN : (1)

SAUDI ARABIA : (4)

SUDAN : (3)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: (1)

Coordination between delegations of countries before the meeting

- ❑ The 10th meeting of the Arab Contact Points in Codex Alimentarius , March 1, 2023.
- ❑ Exchange of Arab positions through CCNE Committee.
- ❑ Joint CCAFRICA/CCLAC/US Colloquium on Nutrition And Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CNFSDU43), March 1, 2023
- ❑ Virtual meeting between Egypt and the United States to discuss CCNFSDU Follow up Formula (FUF) preamble , Feb 28, 2023.



Agenda Items

*Items Recommended for Adoption
at Step 5/8 or Step 8*

Review of the Standard for Follow-up Formula (Preamble and structure) (CXS 156-1987) (Agenda item 4)

❑ Background:

- The Chairperson of the EWG, New Zealand, and the Co-chairpersons France and Indonesia.
- The key compositional improvements made in the draft revised standard compared to the **1987** version;
- Over **10 years** and has included **8 EWGs** and **(2) PWG** , **19 consultation papers**, **8 agenda papers**, **2 scientific reports from FAO and one from JEMNU** on protein quality and nitrogen conversion factors. 21.
- The CCNFSDU Chairperson recalled that CCNFSDU42 had agreed to keep the remaining sections of the text at Step 4 on the understanding that all issues in Sections A and B had been addressed and no further discussions were required. CCNFSDU42 had further agreed to hold **the scope, description and labelling and essential composition of Sections A and B at Step 7** to advance the entire standard to the Commission for adoption once all outstanding points had been addressed.
- **In March 2022**, a CL was circulated seeking comments on the last two remaining aspects of the draft revised standard, the Structure and the Preamble. Comments received in response to this CL informed the recommendations put forward to CCNFSDU43 in CRD2

Countries Comments on Circular Letter



Countries Comments on CL

Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, **Egypt**, European Union, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, **Morocco**, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, **Saudi Arabia**, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Viet Nam and AEDA-EFLA, Consumers International, ENCA, HKI, IFT, International Baby Food Action Network, International Special Dietary Food Industries (ISDI), UNICEF

Discussions through the meeting



Discussion on Structure

- Views expressed by delegations in favour of a single standard with two parts included: that some countries regulate products for the entire age range of 6-36 months; the need for harmonizing and simplifying the standard at the international level; that a single standard was a more simple and adequate approach to distinguish the two product categories; it provided consistency with CXS 72-1981, and the need to provide a safeguard as both products are regulated as breastmilk substitutes in some countries.
- There were also views expressed for either two separate standards which was deemed more logical due to the differences in composition; or a single standard that covered four different products, which included the products covered by CXS 72-1981.

Conclusion on the structure

CCNFSDU43 agreed to progress with one standard with two parts.

Discussion on Name of the standard

- ✓ In response to a question posed by the Chairperson on rules and approaches for renaming the revised standard, **the Codex Secretary** confirmed that the name of the standard, in accordance with **the Procedural Manual (PM)**, should be **as clear and concise as possible**. In this case, that would mean establishing a new name indicating both follow-up formula for older infants and product for young children in a new title, and that if a fully informative title was inordinately long, a footnote could be included on the first page of the Standard to capture all naming conventions.
- ✓ The Codex Secretary proposed that the title of the revised standard be the **Standard for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children** with a footnote stating: Other equivalent names for this product are Drink for Young Children with Added Nutrients or Product for Young Children with Added Nutrients or Drink for Young Children.

Conclusion on the structure

CCNFSDU43 agreed to rename the draft revised standard as proposed of the Codex Secretary .

“Standard for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children”

with a footnote stating: Other equivalent names for this product are Drink for Young Children with Added Nutrients or Product for Young Children with Added Nutrients or Drink for Young Children”

Discussion on Preamble

- ✓ The rationale provided by those who intervened for including a preamble included the following:
 - To set the scene and assist countries in contextualizing the standard.
 - To guide countries in the application and implementation of the standard.
 - The need to include WHO references and WHA resolutions for the protection of breastfeeding.
 - To ensure policy coherence with WHO texts and WHA resolutions , and the need to include a statement on the importance of breastfeeding.
- ✓ Some delegations felt that no preamble was necessary in the light of the changed title of the standard which made it clear that the standard had two parts.
- ✓ Some delegations supported including a short preamble, which should be a factual statement similar to that in the Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants (CXS 72-1981)

Chairperson Conclusion

✓ The Chairperson concluded that in principle there was agreement on including a preamble. She invited the Committee to comment on the different paragraphs proposed in CRD2 as follows:

Paragraph 1 : This Standard is divided into two sections. Section A refers to Follow-up Formula for Older Infants, and Section B deals with Drink for Young Children with Added Nutrients, or Product for Young Children with Added Nutrients, or Drink for Young Children, or Product for Young Children.

Paragraph 2 : The application of this Standard should be consistent with national health and nutrition policies and relevant national/regional legislation and take into account the recommendations made in the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, as per the national context.

Paragraph 3 : Relevant World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and policies and World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions were considered in the development of this Standard and may provide further guidance to countries.

Conclusion on the structure

The Committee agreed to adopt all three paragraphs as the Preamble to the draft revised standard and noted reservations from the following countries on specific paragraphs of the proposed text:

Argentina - Reservation to paragraphs two and three

Colombia – Reservation to paragraph two

Costa Rica – Reservation to paragraphs two and three

Cuba - Reservation to paragraphs two and three

Guatemala - Reservation to paragraphs two and three

Panama - Reservation to paragraph two

Morocco – Reservation to paragraph two

United States of America – Reservation to paragraph two

Vietnam - Reservation to paragraphs two and three

Overall Conclusion

- ❑ Noting that agreement had been reached on the title, the structure and the Preamble and recalling that CCNFSDU42 had already reached agreement on all other issues in the remainder of the text which were currently at Steps 4 and 7, CCNFSDU43 agreed to forward the:
 - a) proposed draft revised standard with the title as shown in Appendix II; the Structure and the Preamble together with the remaining sections of Part A and B, agreed to at CCNFSDU42, to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5/8;
 - b) parts of the text at Step 7 of the draft Revised Standard for Follow-up Formula (Standard for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children) to CAC46 for adoption at Step 8 (Appendix II).
- ❑ CCNFSDU43 further agreed to inform the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) to include a new entry titled "product for young children" within the "follow-up formula" section of the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999).

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NRVS-R FOR PERSONS AGED 6 – 36 MONTHS (Agenda Item 5)

- EWG/PWG Chairperson : Ireland,
- Co-chairpersons : Costa Rica and the United States of America.
- The work of both the EWG and PWG **tasks consideration of the draft general principles; a stepwise process to apply the draft general principles for establishing NRVs-R, and piloting the draft general principles on the agreed-upon nutrients.**
- CCNFSDU43 agreed to the proposal of the Chairperson to use **CRD05** as the basis for discussion on the draft General Principles for establishing NRVs-R for persons aged 6 - 36 months.

☐ * **CRD05:**

REPORT OF THE PHYSICAL WORKING GROUP ON THE DRAFT GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHING NUTRIENT REFERENCE VALUES (NRVS-R) FOR PERSONS AGED 6 – 36 MONTHS

Countries Comments on Circular Letter



Countries Comments on CL 2022/74/OCS-NFSDU

Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, **Egypt**, Guatemala, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Philippines, **Saudi Arabia**, South Africa, **Syrian Arab Republic**, Thailand, **United Arab Emirates**, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, HKI, ICUMSA, International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Associations (ICGMA), International Special Dietary Food Industries (ISDI)

Conclusion

□ CCFSDU43 agreed to:

- i. Forward the proposed draft General Principles for establishing Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs-R) for persons aged 6 to 36 months to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5 (Appendix III); and
- ii. Re-establish the EWG open to all Members and Observers, chaired by Ireland, and co-chaired by Costa Rica and the USA, to:
 - a. Revise the draft Stepwise Process taking into account the revisions to the draft General Principles and to develop an approach to propose NRVs-R for the combined age range of 6-36 months.
 - b. Apply the revised draft Stepwise Process to propose NRVs-R for persons aged 6-12 months, 12- 36 months and 6-36 months for the following nutrients:
 - Vitamins A, D, C, K and E, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, vitamins B6 and B12, folate, pantothenic acid and biotin;
 - Calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, iodine, copper, selenium, manganese, phosphorus and potassium.

Proposals for Amendments

Agenda item 7

Standard for Canned Baby Foods (CXS 73-1981)

The Representative of WHO further noted that while the sentence in CXS 73-1981 paragraph 9.5.2 refers only to canned beetroot and spinach, other root vegetables (e.g. carrots) and other green leafy vegetables (e.g. chard, kale) may also contain high nitrate levels when the soil in which these were grown is contaminated. The risk of methaemoglobinaemia declines with age, but there does not appear to be a specific cutoff age at which the risk is particularly high. There is little justification for a cutoff of either 12 weeks (as currently specified in CXS 73-1981) or 12 months (as suggested in the proposed amendment). As such, in the view of WHO the current statement in 9.5.2 is not adequately evidence-based and should be deleted.

CCNFSDU43 agreed to the recommendation of the PWG to delete paragraph 9.5.2 from Standard CXS 73- 1981 and submit the amendment directly to CAC46 for adoption

New Work
Agenda item 7

New Work

CCNFSDU43 agreed as a new work:

- ❑ Harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in foods and food supplements (submitted by Argentina and Malaysia)
- ❑ Guidelines including General Principles for the Nutritional Composition of Foods and Beverages made from Plant-based and other Alternative Protein Sources (submitted by Canada and USA)

EWG to be Activated for Upcoming Period

1- TECHNOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR SEVERAL FOOD ADDITIVES (Agenda Item 6)

- ✓ Establish an EWG open to all Members and Observers, chaired by the EU to complete the work on the technological justification for the use of a number of other additives in infant formulas CXS 72-1981 (TOR).

2- PRIORITIZATION MECHANISM / EMERGING ISSUES OR NEW WORK PROPOSALS (Agenda item 7)

- ✓ Establish an EWG open to all Members and Observers, chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Germany to prepare a revised draft guideline for the preliminary assessment and identification of work priorities for CCNFSDU, including prioritization criteria and the decision tree.

Cont. EWG to be Activated for Upcoming Period

3- Harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in foods and food supplements (New proposals)

- ✓ Establish an EWG open to all Members and Observers chaired by Argentina and co-chaired by China and Malaysia, to further refine and clarify Proposal 2.1 Discussion Paper on Harmonized Probiotic Guidelines for Use in Foods and Food Supplements, especially with regards to the scope, impact on food safety and need for scientific advice; and to develop a revised discussion paper and project document, taking into account comments at CCNFSDU43 and with the aim to consider it at CCNFSDU44 as part of the discussions of new work proposals.

Cont. EWG to be Activated for Upcoming Period

4- OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK (Agenda Item 8)10 , Methods of analysis ,

A. Recommendation 2 – Fructans, beta-carotene and lycopene

- ✓ Establish an EWG open to all Members and Observer, chaired by USA to review the use of fructans, beta-carotene, lycopene in the context of optional ingredients in CXS 72- 1981 and to develop recommendations to CCNFSDU44 regarding the safety and suitability of these ingredients as optional ingredients in CXS 72-1981
- **CXS 72- 1981** : *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants*

B. Recommendation 3 - Assessing the sweetness of carbohydrate sources

- ✓ Establish an EWG, open to all Members and Observers, chaired by the EU and co-chaired by Switzerland for assessing the sweetness of carbohydrate sources in comparison to lactose in “Product for Young Children” in line with the revised CXS 156-1987, Section B, point 3.1.3c footnote 6 for those products based on non-milk protein

Opening the Discussion

- ❑ Adoption of Standard for Follow-up Formula (Preamble and structure), at Steps 5/8 , 8.
- ❑ Adoption of GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NRVS-R FOR PERSONS AGED 6 – 36 MONTHS, at step 5.
- ❑ Adoption of Proposed amendment/revision: Standard for Canned Baby Foods (CXS 73-1981) at CAC46.

General Recommendations

❑ Encouraging all Arab region to participate in EWGs that related to their interested issues.

❑ **For coordination between the Arab countries :**

1- Holding virtual meeting to discuss the Arab countries positions on any Circular Letter (CL) before deadline of reply on CL, in order to give the countries an opportunity to review the national position before the meeting through the competent authorities and authorities.

2- Holding coordination meetings between the countries of the region or other countries of the region, sufficient time before the meeting of the International Committee, in order to give the opportunity to review the national position within each country through the competent authorities.

