





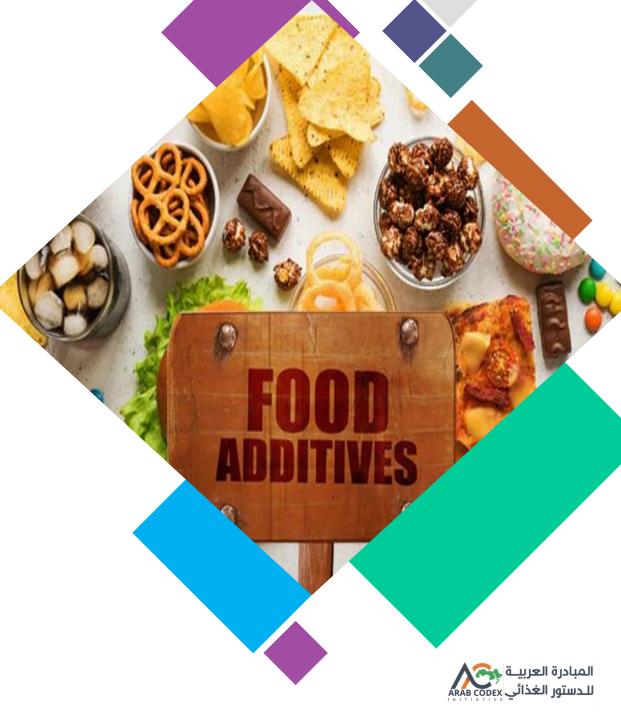
24th Meeting of the Codex Contact Points in the Arab Region

ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 54th SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CCFA54)

8

AGENDA ITEM 8: DISCUSSION PAPER ON DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR FOOD ADDITIVES (GSFA), CODEX COMMODITY STANDARDS AND OTHER TEXTS — IDENTIFICATION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Documents CX/FA 24/54/11



Background: Agenda Item 8



Efforts initiated to achieve full alignment between the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) and Codex commodity standards.



CCFA52
established an
EWG to assess the
sufficiency of
information in the
Procedural Manual
and address
potential
divergence issues



Chair of PWG on
Alignment
expressed concerns
about ongoing
divergence in food
additive provisions,
despite existing
quidelines.



CCFA53
acknowledged the
need for the GSFA to
serve as the single
source of Codex food
additive provisions,
necessitating
alignment of
commodity standards



China, with Canada and the EU, tasked with preparing a discussion paper to identify outstanding issues regarding future divergence between GSFA, commodity standards, and other texts.



Analysis of Alignment Efforts

Analysis Conducted by China, Canada, and EU

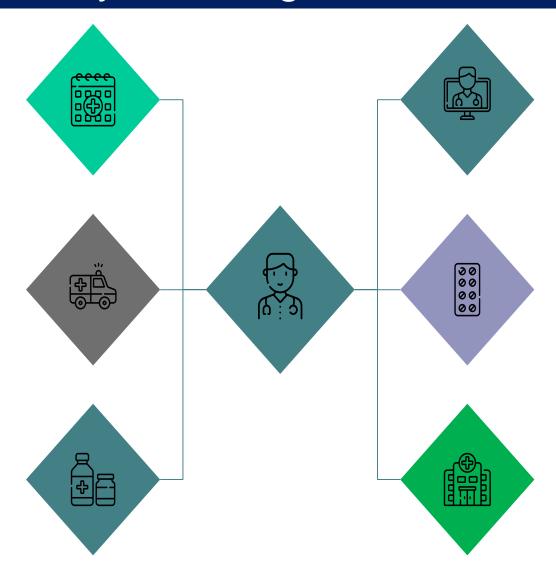
Collaborative examination of current procedures and documents.

Focus on Specific PM Paragraphs and Guidelines

Detailed scrutiny of paragraphs 59-65 of the Procedural Manual and related guidelines.

Categorization of Commodity Standards

Identification of different types of commodity standards: New, Aligned, and Requiring alignment.



Potential Divergence in GSFA Updates

Highlighted risk of divergence if GSFA updates are not cross-checked with commodity standards.

Procedures for Endorsement and Alignment

Recognition of separate procedures for endorsement and alignment, with acknowledgment of simultaneous endorsement and alignment.

Examination of PM Paragraphs

Analysis of specific PM paragraphs, including recognition of GSFA, identification of potential sources of divergence, and alignment principle.



Outstanding Alignment Issues and Recommendations for Resolution

Food additive provisions beyond general reference to GSFA not aligned with Alignment principles

Include explicit statement declaring GSFA as single reference point for food additives

Inconsistent Provision in Commodity **Standards**

Missing statement declaring GSFA as the single reference point for food additives

Lack of Clarification in Procedural Manual

ISSUES/SOLUTIONS

Insufficient **Procedures** for Future **Endorsement**

Current Alignment WG work plan may lack sufficient guidance for preventing new divergences post-completion

Procedural Manual

Update



Harmonize Food Additive

Provisions

Ensure consistency with Alignment principles

Enhance Future Endorsement Procedures

Develop comprehensive procedures to prevent introduction of new divergences



Options to Prevent Future Divergence

OPTION 1.

MINIMAL AMENDMENT TO PROCEDURAL MANUAL

- Maintain current state of Procedural Manual.
- Amendments required postcompletion of Alignment WG work plan.

OPTION 2.

MINOR AMENDMENTS TO PROCEDURAL MANUAL

- Strengthen reference to GSFA as single reference point.
- Remove paragraph 60.
- Add reference to guidelines on future divergence.

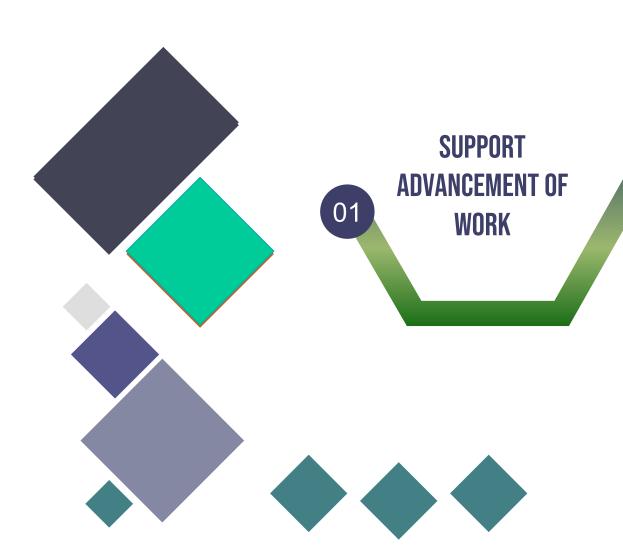
OPTION 3.

HOLISTIC REVISION OF PROCEDURAL MANUAL

- Clearly state GSFA as single reference point.
- Limit commodity standards to general GSFA reference only.
- Endorse general GSFA reference in commodity standards simultaneously.
- Propose changes if GSFA reference deemed inadequate.



Conclusion and Recommendations





- Holistic approach ensures robust framework for alignment.
- Establishes clear guidelines for sustainability.
- Minimizes potential for future discrepancies.
- Aligns with global harmonization goals.
- Promotes transparency, efficiency, and consistency.
- Long-term sustainability.



