



46th Joint Coordination Meeting of Arab and CCNE Codex Contact Points

**PREPARATION FOR THE 45th SESSION OF THE CODEX
COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING
(CCMAS45)**

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Agenda Item 5.1: Review of methods of analysis in CXS 234 (Fruit juices workable page).

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Background

- CCMAS44, an expert group convened under the International Fruit and Vegetable Juice Association (IFU) assessed the relevance and fitness-for-purpose of the listed methods.
- The expert group confirmed that the rationale applied in 2005, when CXS 247 was adopted, remains valid today.
- 56 methods assessed, 52 were considered fit-for-purpose and recommended for retention or transfer to CXS 234-1999. Four methods were proposed for revocation.
- Regarding enzymatic methods, the group noted that several kits used in earlier collaborative trials are no longer commercially available, and the expert group recommended postponing a decision until CCMAS46 (2027) to allow further evaluation.
- ISO methods could not be assessed due to lack of access. Consequently, CCMAS may wish to consider not retaining or not transferring those ISO methods to CXS 234-1999 until proper evaluation is possible.

Recommendations:

- In the context of the revision and harmonization of fruit juice methods under Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999) and General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005), the following considerations may be relevant for CCNE and Arab Member countries:
 - **Support the rationalization and revocation of obsolete methods**
 - **Emphasize the importance of authenticity control**
- Given the regional importance of fruit juice trade and vulnerability to adulteration, Member countries may underline the continued relevance of stable isotope, chromatographic, and marker-based methods for detecting added sugars, syrups, or misrepresentation.
 - **Request clarity on kit-based enzymatic methods**
- For methods retained pending further review (Appendix III), the region may encourage:
 - Clear guidance on performance characteristics independent of specific commercial kits,
 - Consideration of method equivalence criteria,
 - Transparency regarding validation requirements for updated kits.

Recommendations:

- **Highlight capacity implications**
- Advanced techniques such as IRMS, NMR, and multi-residue HPLC/GC methods may not be widely available across all Arab/CCNE countries. The region may:
 - Encourage capacity-building initiatives,
 - Request clarification on minimum performance criteria to allow methodological flexibility,
 - Promote regional laboratory cooperation and reference laboratory networks.
- **Encourage access to ISO methods for full evaluation**
- As some ISO methods were not reviewed due to lack of access, Arab/CCNE Members may support ensuring that full technical assessment is conducted before final decisions are taken.

