

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
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World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

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Review and updating of Codex Standard 234-1999

(Comments by IFU)

The International Fruit Juice Union (IFU) would like to commend the enormous amount of work that Brazil and the e-WG have done so far on the updating of CX 234-1999. This is a very valuable piece of work and we can all see from the number of issues they have identified so far it is well overdue.

Background the Codex Standard 247-2005

The codex standard for fruit juices (CXS-247-2005) was not prepared by a standing Commodity committee of Codex but a task force enacted specifically for this purpose. During the 4 meetings of the task force that took place in Brazil the original draft, that IFU had prepared, was further elaborated by Governments prior to publication. During these discussions it was decided that a number of methods should be included within the standard to provide interested parties, Governments and control bodies, a series of validated tools that could be used to analyse fruit juices to ensure their quality and authenticity.

These methods were drawn up by experts taken from Governments and industry and headed by Dr Carla Barry from Agric Food Canada. These were approved by a plenary session of the task force and then submitted to CCMAS, together with their validation data, for approval at CCMAS 25 in 2004. However, a procedural problem was identified during this meeting that most of these methods did not relate to a „provision” in the commodity standard and so they could not be approved under the „normal” Codex system!

The task force discussed this issue at its final meeting in Fortaleza in 2005. They were adamant that these tools were needed within the standard and so decided to modify the Standard by the inclusion of a new a provision that covered „Quality and authenticity”, which most of these procedures are directed towards. CCMAS took on board this new initiative, and the strong feelings of the task force, and finally approved these methods at CCMAS 26 in 2005 and they were included in the FJ standard prior to publication at step 8 of the process.

During the short life of the task force there was no time to prepare agreed ranges for the various parameters that experts use to judge the authenticity of fruit juices, in fact it was hard to get agreement for only the soluble solids contents (Brix). In this way they included the tools within the standard that could be used to control these products.

Standard 234 updating

Although we agree in principle with the logic of the other SDOs outlined in CRD21 that it would make the „life“ of the CCMAS committee easier if there was only one central list of methods, IFU thinks that there is a critical need to keep the methods within CXS-247.

- There is no numerical provision within the standard for most of the methods
- They are often used together to build up a overall profile of the composition of the product and ensures that it meets the consumer demands for authentic quality products
- Inclusion in one place ensures that it is clear what needs to be carried out to control this type of commodity in many cases no single method is sufficient

If the general consensus of the committee is that the Codex approved methods should be removed from the individual standards and just held in one central standard, IFU would ask that the committee to continue with its precedence and treat fruit juices differently. We strongly feel for the reasons identified above that the methods for fruit juices should remain within our standard.