

IFT Delegate's Report of the Codex Committee on Food Additives Meeting, Xiamen, China 14-18 March 2011.

Report on the 43rd Session CCFA, Dr. Junshi Chen, Chair.

Members of the IFT delegation to CCFA: Rodney Gray, Martek Biosciences and IFT Codex Subject Expert to the CCFA, and Gloria Brooks-Ray, Exponent and IFT Codex Subject Expert to the Codex Committee on Food Labeling.

Mr. Rui Chen, Deputy Director General of the Bureau of Food Safety Coordination and Health Supervision, welcomed participants on behalf of the Deputy Minister. He described the importance that the Chinese Government places on food safety and indicated that the Chinese Government would continue to take an active part in promoting food safety, trade and technical cooperation at the international level. Following this, the agenda was adopted with a minor modification, and matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees and Task Forces were considered.

The main item of business, as in previous years, was directed at the many aspects involved in developing the **GSFA (General Standard for Food Additives)**.

Food Category System revisions involving Confectionery (05.2):

There was much discussion about use of the words “nutritive or non-nutritive high intensity sweeteners.” A compromise was eventually reached to use the terms “dietetic counterparts,” covering all products on the market. Revisions to Food Category 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4 were sent to the Commission for adoption.

Category 16.0:

Once again no consensus could be reached on this category, with many delegations voicing opposing views, though the belief that category 16 should be deleted was restricted to the European countries. An electronic working group will prepare a discussion paper for consideration next year

Action on specific substances:

The Committee agreed on over 150 provisions and levels for steviol glycosides, lauric arginate ethyl ester, sulfites, canthaxanthin, caramel colors, carotenes, carotenoids, erythrosine, and grape skin extract. These provisions will be sent to the Commission for adoption.

Note 161:

There was extensive discussion on this issue. Several countries supported continued use if on a limited basis, while many others supported deletion. IFT made an intervention during the discussion on this issue to the effect: *IFT supports decisions that are made on the basis of sound science. The extensive use of Note 161 in the GSFA has no basis in science and undermines one of the main purposes of Codex which is to facilitate trade between member countries throughout the world. IFT therefore strongly supports those delegations that have called for an end to the use of Note 161 and for its removal from the standard.* There was no consensus; and an electronic working group was established to be led by South Africa to continue work on a discussion paper for consideration next year.

Carry-over of food additives into food:

The preamble wording was considered more appropriate by the Committee. The title of 4.1 was clarified to specifically refer to the carry-over of food additives from ingredients and raw materials into food, as had been suggested by IFT in written comments. Also along with other wording changes, Sec 4.2 was retained with a new title. There was agreement to forward the revised text of Sec. 4 of the preamble to the CAC for adoption. Also, the Committee agreed to request clarification from the CCNSFDU on appropriateness of the carry-over principle for foods included in the standards falling under food categories 13.1 (infant formulae, follow-up formulae, and formulae for special medical purposes for infants) and 13.2 (complementary foods for infants and young children).

For complete details, see ALINORM REP11/FA, the report of the 2011 Codex Committee on Food Additives Session 43 at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/archives.jsp?lang=en>.