6 October 2021

European Union Comments

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

27th Session

Virtual, 18 – 22 and 26 October 2021

Agenda Item 2:

Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies - Matters Arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) (CX/FO 21/27/02)

Mixed Competence.
Member States Vote

Part 4.4 Referral to CCFO: For consideration and reply by CCFO

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) welcome that AOCS and ISO are collaborating to produce identical methods for synthetic antioxidants to replace AOCS Ce-6-86 by 2023. This puts the acceptance of the method for the determination of antioxidants on a broader basis. The extent to which the method AOAC 983.15 will then still be required cannot be assessed at the present time.

The EUMS consider that it would not have an impact for trade when endorsing the AOCS methods for fatty acid composition for Type II.

Method ISO 935:1988 and AOCS Cc12-59 are different to some extent but the used titre assembly or cooling apparatus are comparable, differences of the methods apply only to details in the procedure. Therefore, the EUMS do not expect any impact for trade upon retyping. In addition, the application of this method is probably not wide-spread today, so that no influence on the market is to be expected for this reason.

The EUMS are of the opinion that the Crismer value is not relevant today anymore because other methods to proof identity of oils are available. In some cases, this method might be applied in the oleochemical industry. The Halphen test could have some importance in other countries for the fast quantitative detection of cottonseed oil in other oils. No major equipment is required, so that it cannot be ruled out that the method is still used in some countries.

Method ISO 18609:2001 uses hexane to solve the unsaponifiable matter instead of diethyl ester used by method ISO 3596:2001 or AOCS Ca 6b-53. For health reasons, diethyl ether is preferable to hexane because hexane is metabolized in the body to 2,5-hexanedione, this causes nerve damage and is excreted in the urine. Therefore, today other solvents increasingly replace hexane. Thus, and in addition to the fact that the method produces systematically underestimated results, the EUMS would recommend to reject method ISO 18609:2001.