

European Union Comments

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Thirty-fourth Session

Ålesund, Norway - 19 – 24 October 2015

**Agenda item 2 a): Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius
Commission and other Committees (CX/FFP 15/34/2)**

*European Union competence
European Union vote*

Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) (46th Session)

The European Union (EU) takes note of the issue pointed out by the CCFA that phosphates INS 342(i), (ii) and INS 343 (i) – (iii) in the Standard for Fresh and Quick Frozen Raw Scallop Products were associated with functions of humectants or sequestrant, which were not listed in CAC/GL 36-1989 and that the use (i.e. technological effect) of INS 342 and 343 should be clarified.

The EU considers that in general the technological function of phosphates in frozen molluscs is “Humectant / Sequestrant”. However, phosphates are very often used in combination and to achieve the best results a combination of phosphates acting as humectants, sequestrants and acidity regulators might be needed. It should be noted that the prevention of water losses due to freezing would not be achieved just by modifying the pH (i.e. by using acidity regulators only).

The EU does not have precise information about the use of INS 342 and 343 in foods falling within the standard CODEX STAN 315-2014. INS 342 is not authorised for use in the EU and to the EU’s knowledge the use of INS 343 in frozen molluscs in the EU is limited. The Codex Members which use the mentioned additives should clarify their technological effect. The EU would like to note that both additives are currently associated with the acidity regulator functional class in CAC/GL 36-1989, therefore, the EU suggests that the heading of the table permitting the use of phosphates in CS 315-2014 (i.e. section 4.2) is revised to “Humectant / Sequestrant / Acidity regulator” unless it is demonstrated that INS 342 and INS 343 act as humectants or sequestrants. In the latter case the CAC/GL 36-1989 should be revised to associate the mentioned functional classes with INS 342 and INS 343.