

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

(Working by correspondence)

European Union comments on

Agenda item 8:

**Matters referred from CCFA49 and CCFA50
CX/PFV 19/29/8**

*European Union Competence
European Union Vote*

Part I. Technological Justifications

Item 1

1) Pectins

The EU supports the recommendation.

The European Union (EU) supports the addition of pectins in Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA for FC 14.1.2.2 (vegetable juice) and for FC 14.1.2.4 (concentrates for vegetable juice).

2) Request clarification from CCFA on the proper classification of juice and nectar products with non-juice food additive ingredients

The EU does not support the recommendation.

The EU considers that matters related to the scope of CXS 247-2005, classification of the products similar to those falling within CXS 247-2005 and questions related to the technological justification of food additives in those products fall within the responsibility and expertise of the CCPFV. Therefore, the CCPFV needs to find a consensus on those matters first before informing/consulting the CCFA. If no consensus is reached, the EU supports to maintain the status quo (i.e. except for pectin no other EST shall be permitted in juices and nectars).

The EU maintains its cautious approach and it does not support the use of emulsifiers, stabilisers and thickeners (ESTs), other than pectin, in juices and nectars so that the character and authenticity of such products is not compromised. In the EU's view the use of ESTs is not technologically justified and it may affect the character of the products as demonstrated by certain studies (e.g. see <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jfpp.13737>).

The EU considers that ‘formulated juice-based beverages’, i.e. the products containing other ESTs than pectin and/or other non-juice ingredients, do not fall within CXS 247-2005. Such products need to be properly described and clearly distinguished from fruit juices and nectars so that the consumer is not misled. The EU is of the view that such products rather fall within the category 14.1.4 that also covers 'fruit and vegetable juice-based drinks' in its sub-category 14.1.4.2. If needed, the EU could support the establishment of a new sub-category of the category 14.1.4 which would address such products.

Item 2

The EU supports the recommendation.

Item 3

The EU supports the recommendation.

Item 4

The EU supports the recommendation formulated in the first bullet point as it accurately captures the diverging views on the technological justification of colours in frozen French fried potatoes.

The EU considers that the use of colours in frozen French fried potatoes is not appropriate. The EU believes that the consumer should be educated instead to learn that the darker colour of French fried potatoes is linked with higher acrylamide levels, which is not desirable. The use of colours in French fried potatoes is thus misleading as regards acrylamide levels in the final product.

The EU does not support the first part of the second bullet point "*Request that CCFA address the issue based on safety*" as it may be interpreted as a “green light” for the CCFA to endorse the provisions on colours (provided there is no safety issue) even in the absence of a consensus on a technological need. Such approach would not be appropriate.

Therefore, the EU suggests that the second bullet point is reformulated to:

“Request that CCFA only refers this matter back to CCPFV if CCFA seeks new information that has not yet been discussed in CCFA and CCPFV.”

Item 5

The EU supports the recommendation.

Part II. Revocation of certain food additives

Items 7-9

The EU supports the recommendations.