

**European Union comments on
Codex Circular Letter CL 2014/18-PFV**

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND INFORMATION ON PACKING MEDIA FOR
PICKLED VEGETABLES**

*Mixed Competence
Member States Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) generally support the approach proposed in Annex II of CL 2014/18-PFV for the provisions on packing media for pickled fruits and vegetables (CODEX STA 260-2007) with certain modifications:

2.1 PRODUCT DEFINITION

Pickled fruits and vegetables is the product:

(d) packed with or without a suitable liquid packing medium (~~e.g., oil, brine or acidic media such as vinegar~~) *[redundant, as these ingredients are now listed in point 3.1.2.2 b]* as specified in Section 3.1.2, with ingredients appropriate to the type and variety of pickled product, to ensure an equilibrium pH of less than 4.6.

3 ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

3.1 COMPOSITION

3.1.1 Basic Ingredients

Fruits and vegetables and liquid packing medium when appropriate, as defined in Sections 2.1(a), 2.1(d) and 3.1.2, in combination with one or more of the other permitted ingredients listed in Section 3.1.3.

3.1.2 Packing Media

3.1.2.1 For pickled fruits, in accordance with the Guidelines on Packing Media for Canned Fruits (CAC/GL 51-2003).

3.1.2.2 For pickled vegetables, in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) *Basic Ingredients*

Water, and if necessary salt ~~or oil or acidic media such as vinegar~~. *[redundant, as these ingredients are listed in point 3.1.2.2 b]*

(b) *Other Permitted Ingredients*

Packing media for pickled vegetables may contain ingredients subject to labelling requirements of Section 8 and may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) foodstuff with sweetening properties such as sugars (including syrups) as defined in the Standard for Sugars (CODEX STAN 212-1999), honey as defined in the Standard for Honey (CODEX STAN 12-1981) or juices and/or nectars as defined in the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CODEX STAN 247-2005) ~~and~~;

- (2) aromatics plants, spices or extracts thereof, seasoning (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for spices or culinary herbs);
- (3) vinegar;
- (4) oil (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for vegetable oils);
- (5) tomato puree (in accordance with the Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrates CODEX STAN 57-1981);
- ~~(6) cereal grains (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for cereals);~~
- ~~(7) dried fruits (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for dried fruits);~~
- (86) malt extract;
- ~~(9) nuts (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for dry produce);~~
- ~~(10) pulses (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for pulses);~~
- (117) sauce (e.g., fish sauce);
- (128) soy sauce;
- (139) other ingredients as appropriate.

3.1.3 Other Permitted Ingredients

- (1) *cereal grains (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for cereals);*
- (2) *dried fruits (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for dried fruits);*
- (3) *nuts (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for dry produce);*
- (4) *pulses (in accordance with the relevant Codex standards for pulses);*
- (5) *other ingredients as appropriate.*

[these ingredients cannot be considered as part of packing media]

8. LABELLING

8.2.3 The name of the product shall include the indication of the packing medium as set out in Section 2.1(d).

Concerning the question in paragraph 7 of CL 2014/18-PFV on food additive sweeteners in packing media, the EUMS are of the view that they should be listed under the food additive provisions in section 4 of the standard if technologically justified.