

European Union Comments

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

49<sup>th</sup> Session

Beijing P.R., China, 24 – 29 April 2017

AGENDA ITEM 7

*European Union Competence*

*European Union Vote*

## European Union Comments

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

49<sup>th</sup> Session

Beijing P.R., China, 24 – 29 April 2017

#### AGENDA ITEM 7 (a)

#### **Draft and proposed revision of the Classification of Foods and Feed at Steps 7 and 4: Vegetable commodity groups**

(CX/PR 17/49/6)

*European Union Competence*

*European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification of food and feed chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands for the preparation of the draft and proposed revision of the Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds.

The EU acknowledges the accurate work done by the eWG to harmonize and to check the internal coherence of various decisions taken by the CCPR in the period 2010-2016 on the classification of food and feed.

The European Union (EU) agrees with the reviewed classification proposed in the document CX/PR 17/49/6.

The EU supports the proposal of paragraph 9 to add to the description of all subgroups the words “*subgroup of*”. This editorial improvement will prevent any misinterpretation in the several cases in which the description of the subgroup is identical to the description of one commodity within the subgroup.

In reply to the comment on inconsistency to the already adopted crop groups presented in paragraph 17, the EU proposes to amend in a future step the groups already approved by CAC (Fruits and Tree nuts) and to align also them to this useful editorial improvement.

In addition, the EU would like to suggest to verify the correctness of the following lines:  
In Table 1 of Appendix III (overview of the commodities moved from one group to another group):

- **Chinese cabbage (type Pe-tsai):** the information given in the column 6 of the last line of the extract below should read “VB 2036 Head Brassicas” instead of “VB 0042 Flowerhead brassicas”.

Existing classification			Revised classification		
Commodity	Group CXL	Subgroup CXL	Commodity	Group CXL	Subgroup CXL
VA 0380 Fennel, bulb	VA 0035 Bulb vegetables	-	VS 0380 Fennel, bulb	VS 0078 Stalk and stem vegetables	VS 2080 Stems and petioles*
VB 0401 Broccoli, Chinese	VB 0040 Brassica (cole or cabbage) vegetables, Head cabbages, Flowerhead brassicas	VB 0042 Flowerhead brassicas (includes Broccoli: Broccoli, Chinese and Cauliflower)	VL 0401 Broccoli, Chinese	VL 0053 Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables)	VL 0054 Leaves of Brassicaceae
VL 0467 Chinese cabbage (type Pe-tsai)	VL 0053 Leafy vegetables	VL 0054 Brassica leafy vegetables	VB 0467 Chinese cabbage (type Pe-tsai)	VB 0040 Brassica vegetables (except Brassica leafy vegetables)	VB 0042 Flowerhead brassicas

- **Witloofs chicory (sprouts):** it has been agreed to attribute a new code (VL 0469) to the commodity VS 0469 and to move it from the group of stalk and stem vegetables to the group of Leafy vegetables (Group 013). As a result, at the moment there are now two entries in Group 013 with the same code VL 0469:
  - on page 19 in group 013A (Leafy greens), code VL 0469 refers to 'Chicory leaves (green and red cultivars)'.  
On page 27, code VL 0469 refers to 'Witloof chicory (sprouts)'. To avoid confusion, both commodities should get different codes.

VS 0469 Witloof chicory (sprouts)	VS 0078 Stalk and stem vegetables	-	VL 0469 Witloof chicory (sprouts)	VL 0053 Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables)	-
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- **Fennel:** at page 20 of the document CX/PR 17/49/6, a reference is given to the group 027 Herbs. It might be useful to include the specification 'leaves' to the commodity, as follow: “Fennel leaves, see Group 027 Herbs”

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AGENDA ITEM 7 (b)

**Draft revision of the Classification of Food and feed at Step 7:  
Selected commodity groups  
(Group 020 – Grasses of cereal grains)**

(CL 2017/19-PR)

*European Union Competence*

*European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification of food and feed chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands for the preparation of the draft revision of the Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds, in particular for the crop group 020 – Grasses of cereals grains.

The European Union (EU) in principle agrees with the revision of the group 020 Cereals as proposed in the document CL 2017/19-PR. For the two pending issues mentioned in the paragraphs 6-8 of the document (location of the commodities canarygrass and maize) the EU would like to submit the following comments:

As for the commodity GC 3083 canarygrass, annual (*Phalaris canariensis* L.), taking into consideration the data presented by the Canadian delegation, the EU agrees to move the commodity from the subgroup 020D to the subgroup 020B (Barley, similar grains and pseudo cereals with husks).

As for the commodity GC 0645 Maize (*Zea mays* L., several cultivars, not including Sweet corn), the EU agrees with the Australian proposal to move this commodity from the subgroup 020D into the subgroup 020E Sweet corns.

In case the move of Maize will be agreed, the EU would like to underline that also the commodities GC 0656 Popcorn (*Zea mays* L., var. *everta* Sturt.; syn: *Zea mays* L., var. *praecox*) and GC 0657 Teosinte (*Zea mays* L.ssp. *Mexicana* (Schrader) Iltis; syn: *Zea*

*Mexicana* (Schrader) Kunze; *Euchlaena Mexicana* (Schrader)) should also move to the subgroup 020E, all being varieties of the same botanical species.

As regards the two compromises proposed by Japan, a typo has been spotted in the fourth line of paragraph 8 of document CL 2017/19-PR. The following comments have been drafted assuming that "020E" should be read as "020D". The EU does not support the proposal 1) because there has always been a general agreement to keep the commodity sweet corn in a different subgroup. The EU supports the proposal 2) to choose Sorghum, grain as representative commodity of the subgroup 020D.

In case the two proposed changes of positions of canarygrass and maize will be agreed, there will be several consequences affecting the Table 3 on the "Examples of the selection of Representative Commodities – Grass". They are explained in details in the EU comments to the point 7(e).

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AGENDA ITEM 7 (c)

**Proposed draft revision of the Classification of Food and Feed at Step 4:  
Selected commodity groups  
(Group 021: Grasses for sugar or syrup production)  
(CL 2017/20-PR)**

*European Union Competence  
European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification of food and feed chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands for the preparation of the proposed draft revision of the Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds, in particular for the crop group 021 - Grasses for sugars or syrup production.

The European Union (EU) would like to submit the following comments to the document CL 2017/20-PR.

The EU agrees with the proposal to maintain the group 021 Grasses for sugar or syrup production as currently established and to create a new group for "Tree sap producers". The new group could be included in Type 04, which already contains commodities produced from trees, to be renamed "Nuts, seeds and saps".

As regard the "Portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies (and which is analyzed)", the EU notes that the description "Whole commodity" would be in contradiction with the first paragraph of the standard of the group, which indicates that only the stems are used for sugar production, while the leaves, ears and several wastes are used as animal feed.

The EU considers that in case the tree sap producers will be moved out of the group 021, only the commodities GS 0658 Sorghum or Sorghum, sweet and GS 0659 Sugar cane will remain in the group. In this case a more detailed definition of the "Portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies (and which is analyzed)" can be applied to both sweet sorghum and sugar canes. The EU proposes to use the description "*Stems*".

In this case, also the additional descriptor "(stalk)" proposed by Japan for the commodity GS 0658 Sorgho or Sorghum (sweet), would not be necessary.

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AGENDA ITEM 7 (d)

**Proposed draft revision of the Classification of Food and Feed at Step 4:**

**Selected commodity groups**

**(Group 024: Seeds for beverages and sweets)**

**(CL 2017/21-PR)**

*European Union Competence*

*European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification of food and feed chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands for the preparation of the draft revision of the Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds, in particular for the crop group 024 - Seeds for beverages and sweets.

The European Union (EU) would like to submit the following comments to the document CL 2017/21-PR.

The EU acknowledges the thorough discussion which took place within the electronic Working Group on different options to amend the group 024 and the possible inclusion of additional species.

The EU agrees with the overall conclusion reached by the eWG not to expand the group 024 to plants (not only seeds) used for the production of beverages and sweets and to the general principle to include additional commodities in the group 024, only if they are not already included in other groups.

As for the specific cases of the three commodities water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), foxnut (*Euryale ferox*) and lotus seeds (*Nelumbo nucifera*), the EU is in favour of the option 3) presented in the document CL 2017/21-PR. The introduction of the possibility to attribute a code to new commodities, without necessarily forcing every commodity in one or another group, will be also useful in other future doubtful cases, when available information don't suggest an easy classification in any other group.

These three commodities could be introduced in a more appropriate group at a later stage, when more detailed knowledge on each commodity will become available.

The EU would like to note that, whatever option will be chosen, the three commodities are rather heterogeneous. It is therefore impossible to choose an appropriate representative commodity for the three commodities and the EU proposes that the representative commodities for these particular commodities should be:

- 'water chestnut or foxnut or lotus seeds'.



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AGENDA ITEM 7 (e)

**Proposed draft tables – Examples of selection of representative commodities (vegetable and other commodity groups)  
(for inclusion in the "Principles and guidance for the selection of representative commodities for the extrapolation of maximum residue limits for pesticides to commodity groups) at Step 4**

(CL 2017/22-PR)

*European Union Competence*

*European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification of food and feed chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands for the preparation of the draft and proposed revision of the Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds.

The European Union (EU) would like to submit the following comments to the document CL/2017/22-PR.

The EU agrees with the proposed Table 2: "Examples of the Selection of Representative Commodities – Vegetables" and fully supports its final adoption by CAC40 (2017).

The EU could support the proposed Table 3 "Examples of the Selection of Representative Commodities – Grasses", with the amendments which will become necessary in case the proposed moves of canarygrass (from the subgroup 020D to the subgroup 020B) and of maize, popcorn and teosinte (from the subgroup 020D to the subgroup 020E) will be accepted (see also comments to the point 7(b)).

In particular:

- in the first column 'Codex group/Subgroup', the names of the subgroups 020D and 020E should be amended as follows:

- Subgroup 020D "Grain sorghum and Millet";
- Subgroup 020E "Maize and Sweet corn cereals";

- in the second column 'Examples of representative commodities':
  - the representative commodity for the subgroup 020D should become "Sorghum, grain". The commodity "Maize" should be deleted;
  
- in the third column 'Extrapolation to the following commodities':
  - the commodity "canarygrass, annual" should be deleted from the subgroup 020D and added to the subgroup 020B;
  - the commodities "Maize", "Popcorn" and "Tesosinte" should be deleted from the subgroup 020D and added to the subgroup 020E.

In addition, in case the move of maize, popcorn and teosinte into subgroup 020E will be agreed the EU considers necessary to add maize as representative commodity of the subgroup 020E. The representative commodities for the group 020E should become: "*Maize and Sweet corn (corn-on-the-cob)*".