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CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

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European Union Comments on

Circular Letter CL 2021/37-PR:

**Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed
(Class C, Class D and Tables of examples for representative commodities
for Class C and Class D)**

European Union Competence

European Union Vote

1. General Comments

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group (eWG) 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 on the revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds. In addition, the EU would like to thank Japan for its contribution on the replacement of the term “fodder” to include more specific terms for animal feeds.

The EU acknowledges the work done by the eWG to harmonise and to check the internal coherence of various decisions taken by the CCPR in the period 2010-2021 on the revision of the classification of food and feed.

2. Specific Comments

2.1 Revised Class C

The EU contributed to the eWG in response to circular letter CL 2020/10-PR and acknowledges that most comments were included in the report CX/PR 21/52/6. The EU can agree with this document.

2.2 Revised Class D

The EU contributed to the eWG in response to circular letter CL 2020/11-PR and acknowledges that most comments were included in the report CX/PR 21/52/7. The EU can agree with this document.

The EU notes that according to CX/PR 21/52/7, rice is classified as CM 0649 (rice husked) and CM 1205 (rice polished) in the Group 058 (milled cereal products, early milling stages). The EU highlights that only husked rice (CM 0649) has a direct corresponding code in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 under the code 0500060 (Brown rice (husked rice), defined as rice after the removal of the hull from paddy rice). Codex MRLs established for polished rice (CM 1205) can not be implemented in the EU, unless a processing factor is available to recalculate the Codex MRL to brown rice. As it was highlighted in a recent case study published by FAO¹, the classification for rice plays an important role in terms of alignment of national legislation of Codex member countries with Codex MRLs. Due to divergences in classification, an overall low amount of alignment with Codex MRLs (23%) has been observed in this case study. However, when only the data from husked rice were compared, the level of correspondence rose to 100 percent. The EU would therefore very much welcome agreement on a common definition of the commodity to which Codex MRLs should apply or on the establishment of a reliable processing factors.

The EU notes that currently Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 is mainly based on raw commodities and Codex MRLs for processed commodities currently can not be directly implemented in EU legislation.

The EU recommends to delete the group code DF 0175 (Group of fruit and vegetable, dried, (includes all commodities in this Group)) from the Group 055 (dried fruits) as dried vegetables are covered by the group code DV 0168 inside the Group 056.

In Group 055 "Dried fruits" the code "DF 0001 Group of Citrus, dried (see Group 001 (Code FC 0001) for species in the group of citrus fruits)" is included twice (page 5 and 6). The EU proposes to delete the second entry on page 6.

In Group 055 "Dried fruits" the EU recommends to add the word "dried" to the entries for muscatel and pitaya (DF 2540).

2.3 Transfer of commodities from Class D to Class C

No further comments.

2.4 Tables of representative commodities for the revised Class C and Class D

No further comments.

¹ FAO. 2020. *Understanding international harmonization of pesticide maximum residue limits with Codex standards: A case study on rice*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb0463en>