

# Learnings from Codex

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# General

General Subject committee, hosted by China.

Expert Advice from: Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA).

Physical working group led by US.

CCFA Work leads to up-dation of following standards:

- Codex General Standard on Food Additives (CODEX STAN 192)
- Codex Guideline on class names and international numbering system (CAC/GL 36-1989)
- Codex guideline on use of flavourings (CAC/GL 66-2008)
- Codex guideline on substances used as processing aids (CAC/GL 75-2010)
- Vertical Standards (Commodity standards)

# Separation of Risk Assessment & Risk Management

## Risk Assessment

- Risk Assessment work handled by JECFA.
- JECFA doesn't decide on risk management strategies.
- Membership of JECFA not directed/ controlled by CCFA.

## Risk Management

- Risk Management work handled by CCFA.
- CCFA decides about risk management only after risk assessment is done by JECFA.
- Risk management options evaluated and decided after the risk assessment outcomes.

# Process of adoption of additive provisions

- Evaluation against definition of food additives
- Evaluation of justification for use against the preamble of GSFA
- Safety evaluation by JECFA
- Assigning an INS number
- Assigning a functional class and technological purposes
- Proposal floated in CCFA
  - Countries support/ object to the proposal, basis their exposure data.
  - Consensus value accepted.
  - Endorsed by commodity committees, where required.
  - Endorsed by CAC.



# Topics of Interest

## Current:

- Note 161:
- Discussion on use of nitrates and nitrites
- Discussion on use of words such as Plain, Unprocessed etc., and implications for use of additives.

## Standing Topics:

- Alignment Work.
- GSFA provisions
- JECFA priorities
- INS numbering system

# EXAMPLE: Alignment Work

## Problem Identified

- No single reference point for food additive provisions
- Different food additive provisions in commodity standards and GSFA for the same food/ food category

## Solution Adopted:

- Evaluate and compare food additive provisions in food categories, as provided in GSFA v/s food products as provided in commodity standards.
- Identify differences
- Develop principles and followed by a decision tree approach to handle these differences.
- Modify commodity standards and GSFA as per decision tree approach.

### End Point:

- GSFA as single point reference for food additive provisions.

## EXAMPLE: Aluminum based food additives

### Problem Identified:

- 74<sup>th</sup> meeting of JECFA:

The Committee concluded that, for adults, the estimates of mean dietary exposure to aluminium-containing food additives from consumption of cereals and cereal-based products are up to the PTWI of 2 mg/kg bw. Estimates of dietary exposure of children to aluminium-containing food additives, including high-level dietary exposure, can exceed the PTWI by up to 2-fold.

### Solution Adopted:

- The Committee agreed to forward to the 36th Session of the Commission for revocation the provisions for aluminium-containing food additives included in a number of standards for which there was no active committees (Appendix VII).
- Revised provisions in accordance with new PTWI of 2 mg/Kg



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