

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/3

2 September 1980

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its third meeting, the Committee agreed to simplified arrangements for the avoidance of duplication with the work of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, the first paragraph of which reads as follows (TBT/M/3, paragraph 24):

"1. The Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade would invite Codex Alimentarius to transmit copies of notifications which they receive from governments which are also signatories to the GATT Agreement for circulation to signatories. As foreseen in Article 10.4, the GATT secretariat would provide Codex Alimentarius with copies of notifications made to it which relate to products of interest to Codex Alimentarius."

2. The secretariat called the attention of the Secretariat of Codex Alimentarius to these procedures. The Secretariat of Codex Alimentarius has sent in a documentation on acceptances of Codex standards which has been placed in the Library in the Centre William Rappard (Room 1080), where it can be consulted by interested delegations. The following documents are available:

(i) CX/EXEC 80/27/2, July 1980

Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Twenty-Seventh Session, 13-17 October 1980: "Progress Report on
Acceptances of Recommended Codex Standards and on Membership of the
Commission".

ALINORM 79/5

Codex Alimentarius Commission, Thirteenth Session,
3-14 December 1979: "Progress Report on Acceptances of Recommended
Codex Standards and Recommended Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide
Residues and on Action Taken in Member Countries Concerning their
Implementation".

CAC/ACCEPTANCES/Rev.1

"Summary of Acceptances of Recommended Worldwide and Regional Codex
Standards and Recommended Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide
Residues" (as at 30 October 1978).

3. Extracts of the Progress Report for the period 1 October 1979 to 31 July 1980 (CX/EXEC 80/27/2), covering acceptances of recommended Codex standards notified by signatories of the Agreement, are reproduced below. Future progress reports communicated by Codex to the secretariat will be circulated in the same fashion.

Extracts from: CX/EXEC 80/27/2

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-Seventh Session, 13-17 October 1980

PROGRESS REPORT ON ACCEPTANCES OF RECOMMENDED
CODEX STANDARDS AND ON MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

Acceptances of recommended Codex standards

1. The "Summary of Acceptances of Recommended Worldwide and Regional Codex Standards and Recommended Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues" (CAC/ACCEPTANCES/Rev.1) gives details of acceptances notified up to 30 October 1978. Details of further acceptances notified up to 1 October 1979 are contained in ALINORM 79/5.

2. Since 1 October 1979, further acceptances have been received as follows:

Canada

Canada has furnished an updating concerning acceptance or non-acceptance of limits contained in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Series of Recommended International Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues (CAC/RS 65-1974; CAC/RS 71-1976; CAC/RS 100-1978). Canada has given Full Acceptance to a substantial number of the recommended international limits for different foods. Full details will be published in the next "Summary of Acceptances of Recommended Worldwide and Regional Codex Standards and Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues".

Federal Republic of Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany has indicated its position in connexion with the Recommended Codex Standard for Table Olives (CAC/RS 66-1974).

The Federal Republic of Germany does not intend to transpose the numerous detailed regulations of the Recommended International Standard for Table Olives into German legal regulations. It is therefore not in the position to accept the standard. The free trade in goods is, however, still ensured provided that the following deviations from the standard are observed:

- (1) The use of benzoic acid and its sodium, potassium and calcium salts is not admitted in the case of table olives.

- (2) The use of the preservative sorbic acid and its sodium and potassium salts for table olives has to be identified by indication of "and preservative sorbic acid" in conjunction with the trade name.
- (3) The addition of iron (II) gluconate is restricted to the maximum quantity of forty mg./kg. in the finished product - calculated as iron - and to be identified in conjunction with the trade name by the indication "blackened".
- (4) In the case of preserved olives the weight of the olives at the time of filling shall be indicated without any liquid added.

In the near future an amendment of the German Regulation on Food Labelling can, however, be expected. Then the following designations deviating from the Standard are required:

1. nominal volume,
2. drained weight, and
3. date of minimum durability.

Hungary

Hungary has notified Full Acceptance of many of the Recommended International Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues (Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Series).

New Zealand

New Zealand has notified Limited Acceptance, in most cases, and Full Acceptance in several other cases, of the Recommended International Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues (Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Series).

United States

The United States has notified its position concerning the Recommended International Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues (Sixth Series). The United States has also indicated a limited number of revisions of its position on the Fourth (CAC/RS 65-1974) and Fifth Series (CAC/RS 71-1976). The United States has notified Full Acceptance of a number of the recommended maximum limits for certain foods. In many cases, the United States has notified.

Non-Acceptance, but with the qualification that products complying with the recommended international maximum limits may be distributed freely within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States. In other cases, products complying with the recommended international maximum limits may be distributed under certain conditions within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

The United States has completed acceptance forms for twenty-one Recommended Codex Standards, which have been previously acted on by the United States. By this action the United States has formalized the acceptance with specified deviations of the Recommended General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CAC/RS 1-1969) and of the following commodity standards (canned Pacific salmon, dextrose anhydrous, dextrose monohydrate, glucose syrup, dried glucose syrup, lactose, canned grapefruit, canned applesauce, canned sweet corn, canned tomatoes, canned plums, canned green and wax beans, margarine and quick frozen peas). The United States is unable to accept the Recommended General Standard for Fats and Oils not covered by Individual Standards and the Recommended Codex Standards for edible soyabean oil, edible arachis oil, edible cottonseed oil, edible sunflowerseed oil, edible rapeseed oil, edible maize oil, edible sesameseed oil, edible safflowerseed oil and mustardseed oil. However, except for untreated rapeseed oil (the hydrogenated rapeseed oil is acceptable), oils complying with the Recommended Codex Standards for the above-mentioned oils would not be barred from entering the United States or moving freely in United States domestic commerce.

The United States states that it has and will continue to participate fully in the development of Codex Standards and to strive for their acceptance under United States law. The United States adds that it is its desire to accept as many Codex Standards as possible. Therefore, non-acceptance of the General Standard for Fats and Oils and the nine recommended individual standards should not be construed to mean that the United States will be unable to accept these standards at such future time as they have been revised by the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils. The United States further advises that it is actively considering many other Codex standards and that the Codex Secretariat will be advised of United States action on these as soon as the formal rule-making procedure required by regulations has been completed.

Note by the Secretariat of Codex Alimentarius

Full details of the above replies, including details of deviations, will be published in the next updating of the "Summary of Acceptances of Recommended Worldwide and Regional Codex Standards and Recommended Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues".