

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/8

1 October 1981

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Note by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with the Arrangement agreed to by the Committee at its third meeting (TBT/M/3, paragraph 24), the secretariat circulated on 2 September 1980 (TBT/3) the information received from the secretariat of Codex Alimentarius on acceptances of Codex standards, covering the period 1 October 1979 to 31 July 1980.
2. Further information on acceptances has now been received, covering the period up to 10 July 1981. The corresponding documentation has been placed in the Library in the Centre William Rappard (Room 1080), where it can be consulted by delegations. The following documents are available:
 - (i) ALINORM 81/2 and Addendum 1, July 1981. 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.
 - (ii) Extract from the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, held in Geneva on 29 June-10 July 1981.
 - (iii) Notifications by Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Poland and Portugal of specified deviations by these countries.
3. Extracts from documents (i) and (ii) above, covering acceptances of recommended Codex standards notified by signatories of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, are reproduced below. The elements of information are combined under each country heading.

Extracts from: ALINORM 81/2 and Addendum 1
and Report of Fourteenth Session of the
Codex Alimentarius Commission

ARGENTINA

Argentina has given full acceptance to the following standards:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| CAC/RS 88-1978 | - Canned corned beef |
| CAC/RS 96-1978 | - Cooked cured ham |
| CAC/RS 97-1978 | - Cooked cured pork shoulder |

In the case of the standard for luncheon meat (CAC/RS 89-1976), Argentina's position is that luncheon meat without binders is given full acceptance.

The following standards have been given acceptance with specified deviations:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| CAC/RS 33-1970 | - Olive oil |
| CAC/RS 50-1971 | - Quick frozen fillets of cod and haddock |
| CAC/RS 51-1971 | - Quick frozen fillets of ocean perch |
| CAC/RS 87-1976 | - Chocolate |
| CAC/RS 92-1978 | - Quick frozen shrimps or prawns |
| CAC/RS 93-1978 | - Quick frozen fillets of hake |
| CAC/RS 94-1978 | - Canned sardines and sardine-type products |
| CAC/RS 95-1978 | - Quick frozen lobsters |
| CAC/RS 98-1978 | - Cooked cured chopped meat |
| CAC/RS 19-1969 | - General standard for fats and oils not covered by individual standards |
| CAC/RS 20-1969 | - Edible soyabean oil |
| CAC/RS 26-1969 | - Edible sesame seed oil |
| CAC/RS 27-1969 | - Edible safflower seed oil |
| CAC/RS 34-1970 | - Mustard seed oil |

Argentina finds the following Codes of Practice fully acceptable:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| CAC/RCP 3-1969 | - Code of hygienic practice for dried fruits |
| CAC/RCP 4-1971 | - Code of hygienic practice for dessicated coconut |
| CAC/RCP 5-1971 | - Code of hygienic practice for dehydrated fruits and vegetables including edible fungi |

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| CAC/RCP 6-1972 | - Code of hygienic practice for tree nuts |
| CAC/RCP 7-1974 | - International system for the description of carcasses of bovine and porcine species and international description of cutting methods of commercial units of beef, veal, lamb and mutton, and pork moving in international trade |
| CAC/RCP 9-1976 | - Code of practice for fresh fish |
| CAC/RCP 10-1976 | - Code of practice for canned fish |
| CAC/RCP 14-1976 | - Code of hygienic practice for poultry processing. |
| CAC/RCP 15-1976 | - Code of hygienic practice for egg products. |
| CAC/RCP 17-1978 | - Code of hygienic practice for shrimps and prawns |
| CAC/RCP 18-1978 | - Code of hygienic practice for molluscan shellfish |

The following codes are found to be acceptable only with certain deviations, because of the problem connected with the definition of meat:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| CAC/RCP 11-1976 | - Code of hygienic practice for fresh meat |
| CAC/RCP 12-1976 | - Code of ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of slaughter animals |
| CAC/RCP 13-1976 | - Code of hygienic practice for processed meat products |

The methods of analysis and sampling contained in the following texts are also found to be fully acceptable: CAC/RM 9-14/1969; CAC/RM 36-1970; CAC/RM 42-1969; CAC/RM 34-1970; CAC/RM 43-1971; CAC/RM 44/49-1972; CAC/RM 1/8-1969 (titles of these recommended texts are reproduced in the Appendix to ALINORM 81/2, Addendum 1).

CANADA

Canada has notified acceptance with specified deviations of several standards for milk products including butter and whey butter, butter oil and anhydrous butter oil, evaporated milk and evaporated skimmed milk, sweetened condensed milk and skimmed sweetened condensed milk, whole milk powder, partly skimmed milk powder and skimmed milk powder, the general standard for cheese, the general standard for whey cheese, and the standards for cream for direct consumption, edible acid casein, edible caseinates. Canada has also notified acceptance with specified deviations of the standard for rendered pork fat and the standard for fructose. Canada has further notified free distribution with specified conditions in the case of the standard for cream powder, half cream powder and high fat milk powder as well as in the case of the standard for edible babassu oil. Canada has indicated that it was unable to accept the standard for cocoa powder and dry cocoa sugar mixtures, but that products conforming to the standard would be permitted to be distributed freely in Canada.

FINLAND

Finland has indicated that it has made a very thorough study of all the present Codex standards and has compared them with Finnish regulations. Codex standards have been used as a basis of reference in the elaboration of modern Finnish food regulations, which are, to a great extent, in line with the Codex standards. The principal differences are regarding food additives and labelling provisions. Finland hopes to be able to set out more precisely at a later time its position concerning the question of acceptance of a number of Codex standards.

GREECE

Greece has indicated that in view of its having become a member State of the European Economic Community (1.1.81) it is in the process of adapting its legislation to that in operation in the Community. Consequently Greece accepts as maximum limits for pesticide residues in the agricultural products mentioned those fixed by Directive 76/895/ECE, with, in consequence, some modifications of a number of the acceptances of the FAO/WHO maximum residue limits. As regards the question of free circulation in Greece of products in conformity with the Codex maximum limits, this is possible as long as the residue content of the products is lower than the EEC limits.

ITALY

The problem of the international standards and the choice of formula for their acceptance are still under examination by the Italian governmental authorities.

However, several serious internal difficulties exist, which have yet to be resolved, as regards the economic consequences of the application of Decision No. 5, as provided for under the Code of Principles concerning milk and milk products (CAC/M 1-1973), to cheeses (Italian: prodotti lattiero caseari).

Such decision, as presently drafted, inevitably involves the development in international trade of cheeses made from reconstituted or recombined milk, such as to damage the economy of the sector of those countries which, like Italy, base themselves on the appreciation of fresh milk.

In the opinion of Italy, therefore, the designation "cheese" should be reserved solely for the product obtained from natural milk. Products obtained from recombined or reconstituted milk should be marketed solely as food preparations.

The Italian position stems from two fundamental considerations. The first: that the quality of cheese derived from recombined or reconstituted milk is significantly inferior to the quality of the product obtained from fresh milk. The second: that the cost of manufacture of cheese produced from recombined or reconstituted milk is significantly less than that of the corresponding product manufactured from natural whole milk.

Italy is concerned that the presence on the market of the two categories of product, with different costs of production, may generate serious market distortions with resultant damage to the national cheese industries, which are obliged by law to use only fresh milk.

Italy wishes, therefore, the Commission, at its forthcoming session, to take the initiative of recommending to the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products to include this question in the agenda of the Committee's Twentieth Session, for consideration.

NORWAY

Several meetings and extensive discussions between Norwegian authorities and experts have taken place in order to clarify legal implications and practical questions related to acceptance of Codex standards.

At present, the following standards are being considered for formal acceptance by the ministries responsible for official action:

- Standards for fruit juices (9)
- Standards for milk products (15)
- Standards for fats and oils (15)
- Standards for fish and fishery products (6)
- Standards for processed meat products (2)
- Maximum limits for pesticide residues (fourth and fifth series)
- Standard for foods for infants and children
- Standard for special dietary foods with low sodium content.

At present, Norway is not in the position to notify full acceptance of the standards, since some provisions are not in accordance with existing Norwegian legislation. However, in the process of considering the standards for acceptance, Norwegian regulations may as well be revised in order to become harmonized with Codex standards. Such revision is being undertaken for some of the standards in question, and will require some time to be completed. It is hoped, however, that Norway will be ready to notify its position with regard to the majority of these standards within a year.

UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom has notified target acceptance of a very large number of the maximum residue limits contained in the sixth series (CAC/RS 100-1978). In addition, in several cases where the United Kingdom has notified non-acceptance, it has indicated, nonetheless, that products in conformity with the Codex maximum limits concerned may be distributed freely in the United Kingdom.

Note by the Secretariat of Codex Alimentarius

Full details of the above replies will be published in the next updating of the Summary of Acceptances.