

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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TO Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM Secretariat,
Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AT STEP 3 ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION OF
THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED:
GROUP 021 – GRASSES FOR SUGARS OR SYRUP PRODUCTION**

DEADLINE 17 April 2017

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BACKGROUND

1. Background on the discussion of the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CAC/MISC 4-1993) can be found in the reports of the 36th – 48th sessions of the Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) including relevant sessions of the Codex Alimentarius (CAC) held from 2004 to 2016. Reports of Codex Committee meetings are available at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/en/>.
2. The 48th Session of CCPR (CCPR48) (April 2016) agreed that the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands would continue to work on Group 021 Grasses for Sugars or Syrup Production to look into the possible expansion and grouping of this Group including the possibility for multiple entries of commodities in different groups of the Classification and report back at the next session with a proposal for consideration.¹The list of participants is presented in Appendix III.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION

3. There was agreement within the EWG that a commodity should only be included in one group or subgroup to avoid any possible confusion of having two different CXLs for the same commodity. It was also agreed that the plant part needs to be considered when describing a commodity and it is acceptable to include the same commodity with different plant part in different groups (for example radish roots and radish leaves). Finally, it was agreed that it is appropriate to include cross-referencing where commodities (without a code number) can be listed in a group, but with reference to its primary classification.
4. There was also general agreement with the EWG that Group 021 Grasses for sugar or syrup production should be maintained as currently established and to create a new separate group for “Tree sap producers”. There was also a proposal (EU) to include the new group in Type 04 and rename this type as “Nuts, seeds and saps”. Japan proposed the creation of a new group for Tree Sap and also a new Type. It was also proposed that the “Portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies (and which is analyzed)” for Group 021 would be “Whole commodity”.
5. The current Group 021 Grasses for sugar or syrup production is presented in Appendix II, with the addition of a definition proposed by Japan for “Portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies (and which is analyzed)” and “(stalk)” added as a descriptor for the sweet sorghum commodity.

¹ REP16/PR, paras. 142-145, 158.

CONCLUSIONS

6. The EWG agreed to maintain Group 021 Grasses for sugar or syrup production as currently established and to create a new group for “Tree Sap producers”. This group is proposed for inclusion in Type 04 to be renamed “Nuts, seeds and saps” or to create a new Type for Tree sap. Comments should be requested on whether the “Portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies (and which is analyzed)” should be “Whole commodity”.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. The Committee is invited to consider maintaining Group 021 Grasses for sugar or syrup production as currently established and the creation of a new group for “Tree Sap producers”, proposed for inclusion in the re-named Type “Nuts, seeds and saps” or to create a new Type for the new group. The Committee should also consider the: “Portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies (and which is analyzed)” for Group 021 as “Whole commodity”.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

8. Codex members and observers are kindly invited to provide comments on Group 021 Grasses for Sugar or Syrup Production as provided in Appendix II taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the EWG (paragraphs 6-7).

9. When submitting comments, Codex members and observers are kindly invited to take into consideration:

- (1) The discussion held at CCPR48¹.
- (2) The mandate of the EWG¹.
- (3) The guiding principles and the criteria for crop group of the Classification (as in Appendix I).
- (4) The table for representative commodities for Group 021 as proposed in CL 2017/22-PR (Agenda Item 7e)

APPENDIX I
(For information)

The Classification of Food and Feed (CAC/MISC 4-1993) includes food commodities and animal feedstuffs for which Codex maximum residue limits will not necessarily be established. The Classification is intended:

- to be a listing of food commodities in trade as complete as possible, classified into groups on the basis of the commodity's similar potential for pesticide residues;
- primarily to ensure the use of uniform nomenclature and secondarily to classify foods into groups and/or sub-groups for the purpose of establishing group maximum residue limits for commodities with similar characteristics and residue potential; and
- to promote harmonization of the terms used to describe commodities which are subject to maximum residue limits and of the approach to grouping commodities with similar potential for residue for which a common group maximum residue limit can be set.

Characteristics for crop grouping are:

1. Commodity's similar potential for pesticide residues;
2. Similar morphology;
3. Similar production practices, growth habits, etc;
4. Edible portion;
5. Similar GAP for pesticide uses;
6. Similar residue behavior;
7. To provide flexibility for setting (sub) group tolerances.

APPENDIX II
(For comments)

Grasses for sugar or syrup production

Class A

Type 3 Grasses Group 021 Group Letter Code GS

Group 021, Grasses for sugar or syrup production, includes species of grasses with a high sugar content especially in the stem. The stems are mainly used for sugar or syrup production, and to a small extent as vegetables or sweets. The leaves, ears and several wastes of the sugar or syrup manufacturing process are used, among others, as animal feed (see Group 052: Miscellaneous fodder and forage crops).

Portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies (and which is analysed): **Whole commodity**

Group 021 Grasses for sugar or syrup production

Code No.

Commodity

GS 0658

Sorgo or Sorghum, Sweet [(stalk)]

varieties and cultivars of Sorghum of which the stems contain considerable amounts of sweet juice. Among others cultivars of

Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench.

S. dochna (Forsk.) Snowden

GS 0659

Sugar cane

Saccharum officinarum L.

**APPENDIX III
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