



## Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

**Last Meeting:** 51st Session, 25 – 29 March 2019, China

**Full Report** of the 51st Session - [Link to Report & Agenda](#)

**Next meeting:** 52nd Session – 2-6 March 2020

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New Zealand attended the 51st Session.

Attendance at CCFA51 acknowledges that Codex international standards, including those on food additives, are important to international trade, and therefore to New Zealand with our significant exports in milk, meat and wine products. Codex standards internationally form the basis for developing and revising domestic standards in many countries. The *Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)* is also used directly by an increasing number of trading nations.

Main outcomes of importance to New Zealand were:

- The two day physical GSFA working group, chaired by the USA, considered new or revised additive provisions, including final agreement on the acidity regular, sodium hydroxide, used in recombined milks. This new permission was originally proposed by New Zealand.
- Agreement on: anticaking and preservative permissions for sliced or diced high moisture mozzarella cheese.
- General agreement on additives proposed for reconstituted or recombined milks that have added vitamins or minerals.
- New Zealand supported new and innovative permissions for the surface treatment of fruit and vegetables, noting these effectively extend existing permissions for wax based coatings used internationally. Also noting the benefits of extended life and quality to both consumers and industry and reduced wastage. It was agreed to include these provisions in the GSFA for further comment.
- Agreement on a revised foot note that is specific to sweeteners to replace *Note 161*, which subjects Codex additive provisions to national legislation and therefore potentially undermining Codex standards. New Zealand has been active in work to help resolve this issue. The Committee agreed to an EWG to apply the revised note to sweetener provisions in the GSFA which have note 161.
- Agreement on alignment recommendations, including for 13 ripened cheese standards. The Committee agreed align the remaining cheese standards.



- Agreement to establish ingoing and residue maximum levels for nitrates and nitrites and requested the EWG on the GSFA to circulate all current GSFA provisions. Using further data requested, CCFA52 will consider whether it is appropriate to request a new JECFA assessment for nitrates and nitrites.
- New Zealand noted concerns about deleting food additive INS numbers when the additives are no longer used, noting confusion may arise if a number is reused for a new additive. The Committee agreed to develop a list or schedule within the INS system to keep track of deleted INS numbers.