Item 4 (d) of the agenda: Proposed draft Codex Standard for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades

1 Scope

The European Community (EC) agrees that, although the terms “preserve” or “conserve” (which represent jam and extra-jam respectively) are not allowed in EC law, products using these terms are also required to meet the requirements of the standard.

The EC notes that the standard does not seek to regulate reduced sugar / low calorie products. However the EC would point out that such products are becoming increasingly popular and would request that CCPFV should seek to discuss whether the standard should broaden to take account of such products.

2 Description

2.1 Product definitions

For the definition of jelly and extra jelly, the EC proposes to delete “practically free from suspended particles”.

In all definitions, reference to “and/or carbohydrate sweeteners such as honey” is misleading since these products are considered in the definition of “sugars” in section 2.2. Therefore “mixed with sugars and/or carbohydrate sweeteners such as honey” should be replaced by “mixed with sugars as defined in 2.2”.

2.2 Other definitions

For the definition of fruit, the EC proposes to replace “substantially sound” by “sound”.

2.3 Presentation

The EC proposes to delete this section. Any content of parameters that might concern the presentation of these products should be included in the section on Labelling.
3 Essential composition and quality factors

3.1 Composition

3.1.2 Fruit content

The EC proposes to add to 3.1.2 (a) and (b) the following sentence: “When fruits are mixed together, the minimum content must be reduced in proportion to the percentages used”.

To clarify indent (c) the EC proposes the following modification:

“The product as defined in Section 2.1 shall be produced such that the quantity of citrus fruit ingredient used as a percentage of finished product shall not be less than: 20%, of which the quantity obtained from the endocarp shall not be less than 7.5% of the finished product.”

3.1.3 Optional ingredients

The EC proposes the following changes of the text concerning the optional ingredients:

- Replace “essential oils permitted in all products” by “essential oils of citrus fruits permitted in marmalade and jelly marmalade”
- Replace “citrus fruit juice and citrus peel permitted in all products including marmalades” by “citrus fruit juice and citrus peel permitted in jam, extra jam, jelly and extra jelly”
- Delete vinegar from the list of permitted ingredients
- Add “liquid pectin, vanillin, vanilla and vanilla extracts: in all products”
- Delete the specific reference to butter and margarine as they are both covered by the terms “edible oils and fats”

4 Food additives

4.4 Firming agents

The need for calcium bisulphite (INS 227) as a firming agent should be justified.

4.6 Preservatives

Justification should be provided from countries that wish to use sorbic acid (200), sodium benzoate (211) or p-hydroxy benzoates in these types of products. In the European Community, addition of preservatives is permitted but only in energy-reduced jams and jellies.
5 Contaminants

The way section 5 is currently drafted is somewhat unclear. It is supposed that 5.1 refers to contaminants and 5.2 refers to pesticides residues. In order to improve the understanding of the text and as the Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins does not include pesticide residues, the EC suggests to add to the title of this section the word AND PESTICIDE RESIDUES, and to add to the 5.2:

“5.2 The products covered by the provisions of this standard shall comply with those maximum residue limits, in particular for pesticides, established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for these products”

7 Weight and measures

The EC proposes to delete this paragraph.

8 Labelling

8.2.2

The EC proposes to modify paragraph 8.2.2:

The name of the product shall provide an indication of the fruit(s) used in descending order of weight of the raw material used. In the case of products made with three or more different fruits the indication of the fruits used may be replaced by the words alternative phrase “mixed fruit” or a similar wording or by the number of fruit used.

8.3 Fruit quantity and sugar declaration

8.3.1.

The EC proposes to modify paragraph 8.3.1 as follows: “The products covered by this Standard shall also give an indication of the fruit ingredient content in the form of “prepared with X g of fruit per 100g” and the total sugar content with the phrase “total sugar content X g per 100 g”.

8.3.2

The EC proposes to modify paragraph 8.3.2 as follows: “The indication of fruit content should relate to the quantity and type of fruit ingredient used in the product as sold with a deduction for the weight of any water used in preparing the aqueous extract”.

8.4 Labelling of non-retail containers

No comment
Annex

Section 1.2 – Scope

The EC agrees that, although the terms “preserve” or “conserve” (which represent jam and extra-jam respectively) are not allowed in EC law, products using these terms are also required to meet the requirements of the standard.

Section 2.1 – Product Definition

Extra Jam / High Fruit Jam

Definition – First paragraph

For extra jam, the EC considers that “… made from un-concentrated fruit pulp …” should be retained to uphold the higher quality of extra jams above jams.

Marmalade

Definition

The EC is in favour of the current definition of marmalade which does not make citrus peel mandatory.

Section 3.1.2. – Fruit Content

The EC is not in agreement to establish percentages of fruit content at 45-47% for jams, 45% for jelly and 25-30% for marmalade as it runs counter to EU industrial practice.

Section 3.2 – Soluble Solids

The EC agrees that the soluble solid content for the finished products defined in Section 3.1.2(a)-(c) shall in all cases not be lower than 60%. Higher level of sugar content would not be well perceived as it would contradict efforts in the EU and other regions in the world to reduce sugar intake.

Section 7.3 – Fruit Quantity and Sugar Declaration

Fruit and sugar declarations should not be optional as they provide information which is important for the consumers. Moreover, as the objective of the standard is to facilitate trade, the declarations should not depend on the importing country’s rules.