

INFORMATION LETTER N°1807

Date: 08 February 2024

Topic: Codex Alimentarius workstream on “added sugars” definition and IOFI response

Category: Codex Alimentarius

Key Message: The Codex Committee on Food Labeling (CCFL) started looking into a potential definition for “added sugars” at the occasion of its 47th session last year¹. As an outcome, a Circular Letter was issued to request information from the Codex members and observers to support the development of a discussion paper².

The IOFI Codex & JECFA TF reviewed the subject, including the aforementioned information requested, and recognized that this Codex workstream is at the initial stage, and at this stage flavorings do not appear to be in scope – neither directly nor indirectly (i.e., carry-over of “added sugars” into final food due to the use of flavorings / the presence of non-flavoring food ingredients in flavorings). Therefore, the TF concluded that no immediate IOFI actions at the Codex level are required (i.e., submission of IOFI comments is not recommended).

However, IOFI will continue monitoring this Codex workstream closely and reassess the need for intervention as necessary. Meanwhile, IOFI invites its Member Associations to monitor the situation at the national delegation level and reach out to the IOFI Secretariat should a need for coordination arise.

Background: In response to the increasing number of national nutritional regulations which occasionally impacted the use of certain non-flavoring food ingredients (e.g., maltodextrin) in compounded flavorings, IOFI established a dedicated task force on “added sugars” back in summer 2021 with the mission to develop a statement on sugar-related claims. This mission was accomplished by publishing a statement in October 2022 (see IL 1783). While the Added Sugars Task Force has been dormant since, IOFI continues monitoring relevant global developments, including at the Codex Alimentarius level.

Intended Audience: All IOFI members.

Recommended Action: See “Key Message” - IOFI invites its Member Associations to follow the situation at the national Codex delegation level and reach out to the Secretariat should a need for coordination arise.

Related Information Letter: 1783.

For further information: Please contact the IOFI Secretariat (jyi@iofi.org).

¹ See [report of the 47th session of CCFL](#) (paragraph 177-179).

² See [CL 2023/94-FL](#).