



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Methylmercury and total mercury in fish

Request for data on methylmercury and total mercury in fish

Issued 10-July-2019

Background

The 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF13), held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from April 29—May 3, 2019, agreed to re-establish the Electronic Working Group (EWG) led by New Zealand to revise the discussion paper based on new data to be submitted to GEMS/Food to consider whether it is feasible to proceed with the establishment of maximum levels (MLs) for additional fish species and to request JECFA to issue a call for data. The EWG will also consider issues related to sampling plans for methylmercury in fish. The findings of the paper will be considered by CCCF14 in 2020.

We are requesting submission of new data on methylmercury and total mercury in all fish species which have not previously been submitted. The submitted data should cover approximately the last 12 years. Data should be submitted by **November 10, 2019**, to allow time for data analysis and drafting of the paper by the EWG.

The call for data can also be viewed online at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/> or <http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/calls-data-experts/en/>.

Date for submission

The submission of data is requested before

10 November 2019

This deadline applies to all data to be submitted.

WHO will be compiling data for the EWG.

All new data must be uploaded in the GEMS database, which is easily accessible on the web.

To access the GEMS database, go to http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/gems-food/en/. Please read the "GEMS/Food Database Manual" before attempting to submit data to GEMS. To submit data, you will need an account, and instructions on creating an account are found on page 2 of the manual. For technical questions about submitting data to GEMS, please contact Philippe Verger at WHO (vergerp@who.int cc astrid.bulder@rivm.nl).

Note that data already submitted to the GEMS Food Database do not need to be re-submitted.

When submitting data to the GEMS/Food database for this work, please:

- Provide complete information on the LOQ and LOD of analytical methods.
- Provide information in the "Local Food Identifier" or "Remark/references" fields of the database to allow more specific identification of samples, e.g., Is a food fresh or processed, including canned, preserved, salted, etc.?
- Provide information on "State of Food Analysed," i.e., cooked or raw, and on "portion analysed" i.e. fat content, dry weight, as is or as consumed.
- Provide information for both methylmercury and total mercury and indicate if these form a paired analysis.
- Ideally provide information from at least two locations in representative fishery areas.
- Provide binomial (Latin) names of fish species or FAO taxonomic coding.
- Provide information whether it is domestically caught fish or imported fish.