

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

CX 5/35

CL 2013/16-FFP
July 2013

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: **Request for Comments at Step 6 on the Draft Performance Criteria for Reference and Confirmatory Methods for Marine Biotoxins (Section I-8.6 Determination of Biotoxins) in the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs***

DEADLINE: **30 November 2013**

COMMENTS:

To: Secretariat Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy email : codex@fao.org	Copy to: Codex Contact Point Norwegian Food Control Authority P. O. Box 8187 Dep. 0034 Oslo, Norway Fax: +47.23.21.70.01 Email: CCFFP@mattilsynet.no
--	---

BACKGROUND

1. The 32nd Session of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products advanced to Step 5 the Proposed Draft Performance Criteria for Reference and Confirmatory Methods for Marine Biotoxins (Section I-8.6 Determination of Biotoxins) in the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs* (REP13/FFP, para. 99 and Appendix VII).
2. The same session also forwarded the Proposed Draft Performance Criteria to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) for endorsement (REP13/FFP, para. 99).
3. The 36th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2013) adopted the above draft at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6 (REP13/CAC, paras 85 and 91, Appendix IV). The draft will be considered by the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products to be held in Bergen, Norway on 17 - 21 February 2014.
4. The CCMAS 34th Session did not endorse the criteria and encouraged CCFFP to provide information on the toxicity equivalent factors for all biotoxins listed in the Standard.¹

Request for comments

5. Comments are hereby requested at Step 6 on the Draft Performance Criteria for Reference and Confirmatory Methods for Marine Biotoxins (Section I-8.6 Determination of Biotoxins) in the *Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs* as presented in Appendix VII of REP13/FFP. The document is available at the following address: ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/reports/reports_2013/REP13_FFPe.pdf.
6. As per the request from CCMAS, information on the toxicity equivalent factors for all biotoxins listed in the Standard should also be provided.
7. Governments and international organizations wishing to provide comments should do so in writing **preferably by e-mail** to the above addresses before **30 November 2013**.

¹ Full discussion on the endorsement of the Performance Criteria for Reference and Confirmatory Methods for Marine Biotoxins can be found in REP13/MAS, paras 20-26) at ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/reports/reports_2013/REP13_MAE.pdf