

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2016/27-PR (REV)
July 2016

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: Request for Comments at Step 6 on the draft Guidelines on Performance Criteria for Methods of Analysis for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in Food

DEADLINE: 3 April 2017

BACKGROUND

1. The 48th Session of the Committee on Pesticide Residues (April 2016) considered the Guidelines and made a number of editorial changes to improve the accuracy and clarity of the document as well as to remove references to documents other than those adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission or developed by international organisations.
2. Delegations generally supported the revision and good progress made throughout the document. A number of delegations however requested additional time to consult internally with their experts and other relevant stakeholders in order to fully assess the technical requirements in the Guidelines. It was noted that this was a particular sensitive issue for developing countries and thus the Guidelines should not jeopardise the laboratory capacity for the determination of pesticide residues in these countries.
3. The Committee noted general agreement on the Guidelines. However, in light of the changes made to the document, the Committee agreed to reconsider the Guidelines at its next session for completion and final adoption by the 40th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2017). This would allow broad national consultation between various stakeholders taking into account the relevance of this document for the determination of pesticide residues and its impact on regulatory practices for enforcement of MRLs for pesticides.
4. The Committee therefore agreed to forward the Guidelines for adoption by CAC39 (July 2016) at Step 5.¹
5. The Commission adopted the Guidelines and advanced them to Step 6 for comments².

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

6. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments at Step 6 on the draft Guidelines on Performance Criteria for Methods of Analysis for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in Food, as per the general guidance below. The relevant document is the report³ of CCPR48 i.e. [REP16/PR](#), Appendix XI.
7. Based on the discussion held at CCPR48, Codex members are invited to fully assess the technical requirements in the Guidelines and its impact on regulatory practices for enforcement of maximum residue limits for pesticides. In this framework Codex members should identify key provisions that may need further discussion or refinement in order to finalize the Guidelines at CCPR49 (April 2017) and to ensure wide application of the provisions by Codex member countries.
8. The draft Guidelines is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS):
<https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>.

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

9. Comments should be submitted through the Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.

¹ [REP16/PR](#), paras 159 – 163, Appendix XI

² [REP16/CAC](#), Appendix IV

³ Reports of Codex meetings are available on the [Codex website](#) at:
<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-home/en/> ([Meetings and Reports](#))

10. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
11. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments).
12. At the end of the commenting period, the host country secretariat (China) will compile comments in a relevant working document using the system.
13. Additional guidance on the OCS can be found on the Codex website:
<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/ocs/en/>.
14. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.