



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

**Twelfth Session  
Utrecht, The Netherlands, 12 - 16 March 2018**

**MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
AND/OR ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

**A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**Standards and related texts adopted at Steps 8, 5/8 (with omission of Steps 6/7) and 5 of the Procedure<sup>1</sup>**

1. CAC40 (July 2017) adopted the following maximum levels and related texts:
  - Amendment to the MLs for lead and arsenic in edible fats and oils (fish oils) in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995)
  - MLs for lead in selected processed fruits and vegetables (pulses, jams, jellies and marmalades, preserved tomatoes, canned chestnuts and canned chestnuts puree) in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995) – adopted at Step 8 and 5/8
  - Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Arsenic Contamination in Rice – adopted at Step 5/8
  - Annex on ergot and ergot alkaloids in cereal grains (Annex to the *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cereals* (CXC 51-2003)) – adopted at Step 5/8
  - Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Spices – adopted at Step 5/8 (with amendments to add in section 2.3.2 a reference to the *General Standard for Irradiated Foods* (CXS 106-1983) to improve the clarity of the provision)
  - MLs for lead in processed tomato concentrates and canned brassica vegetables - adopted at Step 5

**Revocation of standards and related texts<sup>2</sup>**

2. The Commission revoked the MLs for lead in pulses, jams (fruit preserves) and jellies, preserved tomatoes, canned chestnuts and canned chestnuts puree in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995) in view of the adoption of revised MLs at Step 8 and 5/8 (see paragraph 1).

**Biopesticides, biofertilizers, biostimulants<sup>3</sup>**

3. Chile requested guidance from the Commission on how the current lack of definitions and recommendations for biopesticides, biofertilizers and biostimulants should be addressed including the option of presenting a discussion paper on the subject to a suitable subsidiary body of the Commission. Although no problems were detected in trade currently, it could not be ruled out that this might be the case in future because of the different legislation initiatives that were currently taking place to address the use and safety of these products, therefore such international guidance was required to ensure a harmonized approach to regulating these products. This would also be in line with the Strategic Plan (2014–2019) strategic objective 1.2 on identification of emerging issues.

<sup>1</sup> [REP17/CAC](#), paras. 15-17, 55-59

<sup>2</sup> [REP17/CAC](#), para. 82

<sup>3</sup> [REP17/CAC](#), paras. 219-221

4. The Commission noted:
- (i) countries were starting to develop national legislation, which could benefit from international guidance;
  - (ii) these substances were increasingly being used as an alternative to or to complement traditional agricultural practices, yet were not scientifically evaluated to ensure their safety;
  - (iii) clear definitions of these substances and their safe use and appropriate residue levels should be addressed; and
  - (iv) the technical nature of the issue required consideration in specialized subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
5. The Commission acknowledged the relevance of the issue and the support for the proposal from Chile and recommended that Chile submit a discussion paper for consideration by CCFL, CCPR and CCCF.
6. The Committee is **invited to note** the information above.

#### MATTERS FOR ACTION

##### **Standard for quinoa<sup>4</sup>**

##### Codex Alimentarius Commission

7. Noting the existing MLs for lead and cadmium in cereals in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995) explicitly excluded quinoa, CAC40 requested that CCCF consider including quinoa in the MLs for lead and cadmium in cereals in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995).
8. The Committee is **invited to consider** this request.

#### B. MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES AS RELATED TO THE WORK OF CCCF

##### MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

##### **The 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC73)<sup>5</sup>**

##### ***MLs for lead in selected processed fruits and vegetables (revision of MLs) (for adoption at Step 5)***

9. CCEXEC73 agreed to request that CCCF provide a reasonable deadline for completion of this work and recommended that CCCF not propose further work on the development of new MLs for lead for inclusion in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (GSCTFF) (CXS 193-1995) until work on the revision of existing MLs in the GSCTFF had been completed.

##### ***Guidelines on risk analysis of chemicals inadvertently present in foods at low levels (new work)***

10. CCEXEC73 recommended that FAO and WHO participate actively in the work on the development of the guidelines on risk analysis of chemicals inadvertently present in foods at low levels, with a view to ensuring consistency with the Principles of Risk Analysis, in particular risk assessment.

##### **Overall work**

11. CCEXEC73 welcomed the decision of CCCF to develop a forward workplan and encouraged the Committee to put it into action.

##### **The 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS38)**

12. CCMAS38 agreed to publish two information documents:
- (i) Information Document on criteria approaches for methods which use a 'Sum of Components'<sup>6</sup>, which provides information to Codex Committees and the CCMAS on a variety of (non-exhaustive) issues they may wish to consider when developing numeric method performance criteria for approaches that involve a summation of components; and
  - (ii) Information Document on practical examples on the selection of appropriate sampling plans, which provides help in choosing appropriate sampling plans.<sup>7</sup>
13. The Committee is **invited to note** the information above.

<sup>4</sup> [REP17/CAC](#), paras. 80-81; [REP17/EXEC2](#), paras. 81-82

<sup>5</sup> [REP17/EXEC2](#), paras 55 - 62

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/codexalimentarius/committee/docs/INF\\_CCMAS\\_SOC\\_e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/committee/docs/INF_CCMAS_SOC_e.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/codexalimentarius/committee/docs/INF\\_CCMAS\\_ESP\\_e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/committee/docs/INF_CCMAS_ESP_e.pdf)

**MATTERS FOR ACTION****The 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC73)*****Ongoing work***<sup>8</sup>

14. CCEXEC73 agreed to request CCCF to provide a reasonable deadline for the completion of the ongoing work.
15. The Committee is **invited to consider** this request.

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<sup>8</sup> [REP17/EXEC2](#), para. 57 -58