

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 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 8

CX/CAC/41 CRD/7
Original language only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

41st Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 2 - 6 July 2018

COMMENTS ON DISCONTINUATION OF WORK

Comments of Sierra Leone, Philippines, Ghana

Establishment of MLs for cadmium in dry mixtures of cocoa and sugars sold for final consumption; and ML for methylmercury in amberjack and sword fish

(REP 18/CF Para 91 (ii))

Comments of Sierra Leone, Ghana

SIERRA LEONE

Main issues:

- a) CCCF12 decided to discontinue work on the MLs for cadmium in the category described as "Dry mixtures of cocoa and sugars sold for final consumption"

Reasons given for work discontinuation were:

- There were very few samples with information on the percentages of total cocoa solids for this category.
 - This product category is of low significance in international trade
 - There is an absence of MLs established elsewhere outside of Codex.
- b) CCCF12 decided to discontinue work on MLs for methylmercury in amberjack and swordfish
Rationale (provide scientific justification for the position)
 - a. With the absence of information on percentages of total cocoa solids in this category of products, it was going to be difficult to derive values for the products at this time. It may be possible in the future after work is completed on the category "100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis".
 - b. The EWG had received new data on contamination of amberjack which indicated that the mean/median contamination was below the selection criterion of 0.3 mg/kg that had been applied to determine which species should be considered for setting of MLs by CCCF.
 - c. Swordfish have relatively high levels of methylmercury and consequently based on the occurrence data analysed by the EWG a ML of 2.4 mg/kg was proposed. This ML could not be supported by several delegations. No compromise was reached and since lower

RECOMMENDATION POSITION

Sierra Leone endorse the discontinuation of the following works:

- a. on the category of cocoa product
- b. on amberjack
- c. on swordfish

GHANA

CCCF: Establishment of MLs for cadmium in dry mixtures of cocoa and sugars sold for final consumption REP18/CF para 67(iv);

POSITION: We support the discontinuation of work on this category of cocoa product

RATIONALE: With the absence of information on percentages of total cocoa solids in this category of products, it was going to be difficult to derive values for the products at this time. It may be possible in the future after work is completed on the category “100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis”.

CCCF: ML for methylmercury in amberjack and sword fish REP18/CF para 91 (ii)

POSITION: We support the discontinuation of work on amberjack and sword fish.

RATIONALE: The EWG had received new data on contamination of amberjack which indicated that the mean/median contamination was below the selection criterion of 0.3 mg/kg that had been applied to determine which species should be considered for setting of MLs by CCCF.

Swordfish has relatively high levels of methylmercury and consequently based on the occurrence data analysed by the EWG a ML of 2.4 mg/kg was proposed. This ML could not be supported by several delegations. No compromise was reached and since lower MLs would result in large trade rejections, work on this ML was discontinued.

Draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995)
(REP18/FA Para. 111(iv), App. VIII)

Comments of Philippines, Ghana

PHILIPPINES

CCFA: Discontinue work on a number of draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA (see table below).

Draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 1921995) REP18/FA Para. 111(iv), App. VIII

<u>Food Category No. 09.0 Fish and fish products, including mollusks, crustaceans, and echinoderms</u>								
Additive	INS	Step	Year	Max Level (mg/kg)	Notes	Philippines Comment	CODEX COMMITTEE/ COMMISSION DECISION	SC/TF Proposed Philippines Position for the 41 st CAC
POLYGLYCEROL ESTERS OF FATTY ACIDS	475	7		10000		Support to discontinue and discuss in subcategories	Discontinue	Support
POLYGLYCEROL ESTERS INTERESTERIFIED RICINOLEIC ACID	476	7		5000	277, XS33	Support to discontinue and discuss in subcategories	Discontinue	Support
<u>Food Category No. 12.6 Sauces and like products</u>								
POLYGLYCEROL ESTERS OF FATTY ACIDS	475	4		1000		Discontinue and discuss in subcategories	REP18/FA Paras. 48(i) points a and b and 30(ii) Appendix IV	Support
POLYGLYCEROL ESTERS OF INTERESTERIFIED	476	7		5000		Discontinue and discuss in	Discontinue	Support

D RICINOLEIC ACID						subcategories		
SODIUM DIACETATE	262(ii)	7		2500		Discontinue and discuss in subcategories	Discontinue	Support
<u>Food Category No. 13.1 Infant formulae, follow-up formulae, and formulae for special medical purposes for infants</u>								
GUM ARABIC (ACACIA GUM)	414	4		GMP		Philippines supports to discontinue. Should be aligned with the Codex standard for Infant formula, follow up formulae and formula for special medical purposes for infants.	Discontinue	Support

GHANA

CCFA: Draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA *REP18/FA para 111(iv) and App. VIII*

POSITION: We support the discontinuation of work on the draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA.

RATIONALE: JECFA is the primary source for safety evaluation for CCFA and responsible for the development of the specifications.