



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEx COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

Forty-eighth Session

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PROPOSAL TO MERGE ALL GUIDANCE FOR CONTROL OF FOODBORNE PARASITES: *GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICATION OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FOOD HYGIENE TO THE CONTROL OF FOODBORNE PARASITES*

Background

1. CCFH42 (2010), agreed to start new work on guidelines for the control of specific zoonotic parasites in meat: *Trichinella spiralis* and *Cysticercus bovis* (REP11/FH, para.137). At the time of the discussion on this new work, CCFH highlighted the public health and trade importance of foodborne parasites and the need to address these foodborne parasites in a horizontal manner by developing a general guidance document which could provide a framework in which annexes on specific parasites / commodity combinations could be addressed. However, in order to undertake this work, there was a need for a review of all available information on parasites to better assess the global problem associated with them, the commodities involved, and the related public health issues and that this work could be carried out in parallel to the proposed new work (REP11/FH, para.136). FAO/WHO were subsequently requested to review the status of knowledge on parasites in food and their public health and trade impact (REP11/FH, para. 144).
2. In the interim, the Committee proceeded with separate guidance documents in parallel, i.e. The *Guidelines for the control of Taenia saginata in Meat of Domestic Cattle* (CAC/GL 85-2014) and the *Guidelines for the Control of Trichinella spp. in Meat of Suidae* (CAC/GL 86 – 2015), which were adopted in 2014 and 2015, respectively. CCFH completed the more general guidelines for the control of foodborne parasites, the *Guidelines on the Application of the General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Foodborne Parasites* (CAC/GL 88 – 2016) at its 47th session. These guidelines were adopted by CAC39 in 2016.
3. CCFH47 (2015), when considering and finalising the general guidelines, deleted references to CAC/GL 85 - 2014 and CAC/GL 86 - 2015 on the understanding that a proposal for the compilation of all texts related to foodborne parasites would be considered at CCFH48 (REP16/FH, para.27a) and requested the Codex Secretariat to prepare a proposal for merging the Guidelines with CAC/GL 86 and 85.
4. The document sets out to present a proposal for the compilation of all guidance for foodborne parasites into a single document.

General approach in Codex

5. Generally in Codex, the approach has been to develop general texts covering broad food categories, and if needed, to address more specific measures, e.g. for a commodity (in the case of quality standards) or for a commodity/pathogen combination (in the case of safety related texts), in order to avoid a plethora of individual yet related texts. This approach would provide a single source for users.
6. When developing general guidance texts with annexes, the annexes would generally follow the same format and style of the general texts (e.g. *Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* (CAC/RCP 53-2003)).
7. In the case of the guidance for parasites, CAC/GL85 and CAC/GL86 do not follow the approach or style, but nevertheless still provides guidance for the control of parasites and could be considered annexes to CAC/GL 88-2016 and provide a single source of guidance on parasites.
8. In view of the request from CCFH, the following recommendations are made:

Recommendations

9. Insert CAC/GL 85 and CAC/GL86 as annexes to CAC/GL 88 – 2016 and make the following editorial amendment(s) (in **bold underlined**) to CAC/GL 88-2016 to reflect the inclusion of these annexes as follows:

2.2 Use (insert after first paragraph)

“The annexes to these Guidelines (either name the specific annexes or leave text general to provide for any future additional annexes) **are supplementary and provide additional guidance for the control of specific parasites.”**

and / or

Meat and Meat Products (insert after first sentence)

“Additional guidance for the control of *Trichinella* spp in meat of suidae and for *Taenia saginata* in meat of domestic cattle is provided in Annexes 1 and 2 to this Guideline.”

10. Editorially amend the annexes on *Trichinella* and *Taenia* as follows:

Replace “these guidelines” with **this annex** throughout the annexes.

11. Insert a reference to the *Guidelines on the Application of the General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Foodborne Parasites* (CAC/GL 88 – 2016) in section 2 of the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat* (CAC/RCP 58-2005),

12. Request the Commission to adopt the amendment to CAC/GL 88-2016 and CAC/RCP 58-2005, and to revoke CAC/GL 85-2014 and CAC/GL 86-2015.