MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Codex Alimentarius Commission

Amendments to the Procedural Manual

1. CAC41 (2018) adopted the amendment to the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs to clarify how CCRVDF could approach work to develop extrapolation of MRLs as a risk management decision.¹

Maximum residue limits and risk management recommendations adopted at Steps 8, 5/8 and 5

2. CAC41 adopted MRLs for veterinary drugs used in food-producing animals and RMR for Gentian Violet as proposed by CCRVDF24 (2018)² and noted the following in regard to the adoption of these standards:

Gentian violet

3. CAC41 noted reservations regarding the final sentence of the RMR, which delegations, while not opposed to the adoption, believed was overly prescriptive and went beyond the scope of CCRVDF and Codex. They noted that the existing language could be understood as limiting the capacity of national authorities to use other risk-management measures they may deem more appropriate. CCRVDF’s interpretation of the text of the RMR, if read separately from it, could not assist Members in implementation. Delegations supporting adoption noted that the wording “can be accomplished” in the RMR text gave national competent authorities sufficient flexibility to determine risk-management measures most appropriate to their needs.

4. The JECFA Secretariat clarified that the text was intended to provide national authorities with risk-management options and noted that, since an RMR containing this text had already been adopted for malachite green, a compound similar in use and toxicity, it would be inconsistent to change the wording.

5. CAC41 adopted the RMR as proposed by CCRVDF24 (2018), noting that the text allowed Member countries to choose appropriate risk-management approaches to prevent residues of gentian violet in foods as clarified by CCRVDF24.³

Approval of new work for the elaboration of new standards and related texts

6. CAC41 approved the Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or Re-evaluation by JECFA as proposed by CCRVDF24.⁴

Standards held at Step 8

Draft MRLs for Bovine Somatotropins

7. CAC43 (2019) recalled that CAC38 had agreed to retain the draft MRL for bSTs at Step 8 to allow further time to facilitate consensus. CAC43 noted that these MRLs would continue to be held at Step 8.⁵

¹ REP18/RVDF, paras. 14-15, Appendix II
² REP18/RVDF, paras. 16-17, Appendices III and IV
³ REP18/CAC, paras. 48-51, Appendix III
⁴ REP18/CAC, Appendix VI
⁵ REP20/CAC, paras. 149-150
Other matters
Recognition of the Commission of the current situation and necessary actions between CAC43 and CAC44

8. CAC43 (2020)\(^6\):
   (i) recognized the challenges facing the Codex Alimentarius Commission in fulfilling its duties as the pre-eminent international food standards setting body due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
   (ii) recognized that while many Codex Committee meetings had to be postponed in 2020 this could not continue in 2021; and
   (iii) supported the use of modern tools and approaches by Codex subsidiary bodies in line with the Codex core values to ensure Codex work progressed in a timely and effective manner.

Procedural aspects

9. CAC43\(^7\):
   (i) agreed, on an exceptional basis in view of the circumstances surrounding the pandemic that, with respect to meetings and sessions of the Codex Subsidiary Bodies to be held in 2021, Rule XI (7) and (8) may be interpreted in a manner that includes a virtual setting;
   (ii) agreed on this basis, that Codex Subsidiary Bodies may be held virtually in 2021, if determined appropriate by FAO and WHO, in consultation with the host governments concerned and the Codex Secretariat.

Ongoing work of subsidiary bodies

10. CAC43 recommended to all subsidiary bodies and Members and Observers to make full use of existing remote working mechanisms such as EWGs and CLs and to plan their virtual committee meetings in such a manner as to optimize the possibility to complete their agendas.\(^8\)

Executive Committee

Implementation of CAC42: Feedback on Changes and Proposals for Further Improvements

11. CCEXEC78 requested that Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies and CAC together with the Secretariat\(^9\):
   (i) develop strategies to prevent or mitigate technical discussions at CAC on topics for which there was no consensus and communicate these strategies to Members. Such strategies may include short adjournments of the session for informal discussions or suspension of discussions on items that overran the planned time limit; and
   (ii) ensure that, at CAC meetings, written comments received were given due consideration and the technical basis of reservations were included in meeting reports.


12. CCEXEC78 concluded that the Critical Review was overall an efficient and effective work management tool and that there was no urgent need to revise it substantively while recognizing that improvements could be further discussed.

13. In this regard, CCEXEC78 also recognized that CCEXEC could provide guidance and advice to subsidiary bodies and that subsidiary bodies could also seek advice from CCEXEC and that such exchange could take place outside of the Critical Review process.\(^{10}\)


14. CCEXEC78 concluded that the current approaches to standards review were working for active subsidiary bodies, and encouraged these bodies to continuously enhance their work management processes to consider the need for reviewing existing Codex standards.\(^{11}\)

\(^{6}\) REP20/CAC para 10
\(^{7}\) REP20/CAC para 20
\(^{8}\) REP20/CAC para 31
\(^{9}\) REP20/EXEC1, para. 30
\(^{10}\) REP20/EXEC1, paras. 46 and 51
\(^{11}\) REP 20/EXEC1, para. 57
Regular Review of Codex Work Management 2017-2018: Use of References in Codex Texts

15. CCEXEC78 emphasized that while there may on occasion be merit in including references to standards of another standard setting organization, these should be kept to a minimum since they become an integral part of a Codex text and require life-long monitoring.12


Advice on the coordination of work

16. The Secretariat noted that there are ways to facilitate and promote cooperation between committees such as alignment of the meeting schedule and parallel EWGs such as those piloted between CCRVDF and CCPR.

17. CCEXEC78 noted that cross-committee cooperation including joint EWGs was important and should be encouraged and taken into account in future work planning.13

Codex virtual meetings in 2021

18. CCEXEC80 (2021) recognized that CAC43 had agreed on the possibility of holding virtual meetings in 2021 and endorsed the proposals from the sub-committee on Codex and the pandemic to operationalize this decision, noting that this did not at present require any change to formal Codex procedures.14

MATTERS FOR ACTION

Coordination of work between CCPR and CCRVDF

Overall work

19. CCEXEC73 encouraged closer collaboration between CCRVDF and CCPR when considering MRLs for compounds used as both veterinary drugs and pesticides and invited the two Committees to explore innovative ways to foster such collaboration.15

20. CCRVDF24 noted the recommendation of CCEXEC73 on closer collaboration between CCRVDF and CCPR when considering MRLs for compounds used as both veterinary drugs and pesticides.16

Coordination of work on the definition of animal tissues including edible offal: Electronic working groups of CCPR/CCRVDF

21. CCEXEC75 recommended that the CCPR/EWG on the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CXM 4-1989), in addition to its existing terms of reference (ToRs), work closely with the CCRVDF/EWG on the definition of animal tissues (including edible offal) to develop a harmonized definition that would facilitate the establishment of MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs

22. CCEXEC75 further recommended that the CCRVDF/EWG on the definition of animal tissues, including edible offal, work closely with the CCPR/EWG on the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed to develop a harmonized definition that would facilitate the establishment of MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs.17

23. This matter will be consider under Agenda Item 8.

Critical Review

24. CCEXEC77 called upon CCPR and CCRVDF to collaborate and synchronize work on issues of common interest to both committees to the extent possible to facilitate the establishment of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides / veterinary drugs for compounds with dual uses.18

Timeliness of Codex working documents

25. CCEXEC78 requested that the Codex Secretariat bring the information 19 on the timeliness of Codex working documents, reports and the availability of adopted standards to the attention of subsidiary bodies for their review and suggestions.20

12 REP20/EXEC1, para. 64
13 REP20/EXEC1, paras. 46 and 51
14 REP21/EXEC1, para 35-36
15 REP17/EXEC2, para. 19
16 REP18/RVDF, paras. 7-9
17 REP18/EXEC2-Rev.1, paras. 27-28
18 REP19/EXEC2 para 19-20
19 CX/EXEC 20/78/8
20 REP20/EXEC1, para. 111
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT BY CCRVDF

26. CCRVDF is invited to note:

(i) the matters for information referred by CAC and CCEXEC (paragraphs 1-15, 18)

(ii) the innovative ways of working to facilitate and promote cooperation on cross-sectoral issues between committees will be considered as needed and in particular under Agenda Item 8 to advance work on items identified by CCRVDF (paragraphs 16-17)

(iii) the matters of coordination of work between CCPR and CCRVDF will be considered under Agenda Item 8 (paragraphs 19-24)

(iv) that the Codex Secretariat works closely with the Chair of CCRVDF, Chairs of Electronic Working Groups and the Host Country Secretariat on ways forward to improve work management of the Committee including the review of the information provided in CX/EXEC 20/78/8 (paragraph 25)