

April 2005

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 3

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-ninth Session

International Conference Centre, Geneva (Switzerland), 3 - 7 July 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

A. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The Commission is invited to consider and adopt the following proposals for amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. A majority of the Members of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the purpose of adopting amendments of, or additions to, the Rules of Procedure (Rule VI.7). Amendments or additions to the Rules of Procedure are adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. They come into force upon approval of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO (Rule XV.1).

Amendments concerning the duration of the terms of office of the Members of the Executive Committee

2. The Commission is invited to consider and adopt the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure (Rules III. Officers, Rule IV. Coordinators and Rule V. Executive Committee), proposed by the 23rd Session of the Committee on General Principles (see ALINORM 05/29/33, paras. 88-96).
3. The full text of the proposal is provided in Appendix I.

B. PROPOSALS TO AMEND OTHER SECTIONS OF THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

4. The Commission is invited to consider and adopt the following proposals for amendment to other Sections of the Procedural Manual. These proposals may be adopted by a simple majority and come into force immediately upon adoption. Reference is made to the Appendices of the present document after each section title.

Amendments to the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related texts, Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8 of the Procedure of the Elaboration of Codex Standards including Consideration of any Statement Relating to Economic Impact and Guide to the Procedure for the Revision and Amendment of Codex Standards

Consequential Amendments to the Guidelines on the Conduct of Meetings of Codex Committee and Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces (Appendix II)

5. Following the decision of the 28th Session of the Commission to undertake the review of the three last sections in the Elaboration Procedures, the 23rd Session of the Committee on General Principles agreed to propose several amendments to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, and consequential amendments to the Guidelines on the Conduct of Meetings of Codex Committee and Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces (ALINORM 06/29/33, paras. 116-129).

Amendments to the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius (Appendix III)

6. Following the abolition of the Acceptance Procedure, the 28th Session of the Commission agreed to request the Committee on General Principles to review the *General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius* to consider how the concepts reflected in the deleted sections of the Acceptance Procedure could be integrated (ALINORM 05/28/41, para. 34). The 23rd Session of the Committee on General Principles agreed to propose an updated version of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius for adoption by the Commission (ALINORM 06/29/33, paras. 130-136).

Terms of Reference of the Committee on Food Additives and the Committee on Contaminants in Foods (Appendix IV)

7. Following the decision of the 28th Session of the Commission (ALINORM 05/28/41, para. 143), the 23rd Session of the Committee on General Principles agreed to propose Terms of Reference of the Committee on Food Additives and the Committee on Contaminants in Foods and an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Food Hygiene (ALINORM 06/29/33, paras. 20-29).

8. The Commission is also invited to endorse the recommendation of the 23rd Session of the Committee on General Principles that the new Terms of Reference should be reviewed by each Committee at its first session.

Draft Revised Criteria for Prioritization Process of Compounds for Evaluation by JMPR (Appendix V)

9. The 37th Session of the Committee on Pesticide Residues agreed to send the draft revised Criteria for Prioritization Process to the Committee on General Principles for their review with the understanding that the revised version would be forwarded to the Commission for adoption and be included in the Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual (ALINORM 05/28/24, para. 256 and Appendix XV). The 23rd Session of the Committee on General Principles endorsed the Draft Revised Criteria with some amendments (ALINORM 056/29/33, paras. 31-39), for inclusion in the Procedural Manual after the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities.

The Use of Analytical Results: Sampling Plans, Relationship between the Analytical Results, the Measurement Uncertainty, Recovery Factors and Provisions in Codex Standards (Appendix VI)

10. The 26th Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling agreed to forward a guidance document on *The Use of Analytical Results* to the Committee on General Principles for endorsement and to the Commission for adoption and inclusion in the Procedural Manual, at the end of the sections on methods of analysis and sampling in the *Guidelines for the Inclusion of Specific Provisions in Codex Standards and Related Text*. (ALINORM 05/28/23, para. 107, Appendix II). The 23rd Session of the Committee on General Principles endorsed the recommendations with some editorial amendments (ALINORM 056/29/33, paras. 40-44).

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**DURATION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

(PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE)

(New text appear in bold)

RULE III OFFICERS

1. The Commission shall elect a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives, alternates and advisers (hereinafter referred to as “delegates”) of the Members of the Commission; it being understood that no delegate shall be eligible without the concurrence of the head of his delegation. They shall be elected at each session and shall hold office from the end of the session at which they were elected until the end of the following regular session. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons may remain in office only with the continuing endorsement of the respective Member of the Commission of which they were a delegate at the time of election. The Directors-General of FAO and WHO shall declare a position vacant when advised by the Member of the Commission that such endorsement has ceased. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be eligible for re-election ~~but after having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term~~ **twice, provided that by the end of their second term of office they have not served for a period of more than two years.**

RULE IV COORDINATORS

2. Appointment of Coordinators shall be made exclusively on the proposal of a majority of the Members of the Commission which constitute the region or group of countries concerned. ~~Coordinators shall hold office from the end of the session of the Commission at which they were appointed until not later than the end of the third succeeding regular session, the precise term being determined by the Commission in each instance. After having served two consecutive terms, the Coordinators shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term.~~ **In principle, they shall be nominated at each session of the relevant Coordinating Committee established under Rule XI.1(b)(ii), and appointed at the following regular session of the Commission. They shall hold office from the end of this session. Coordinators may be reappointed for a second term. The Commission shall make such arrangements as may be necessary in order to ensure continuity in the functions of the Coordinators.**

RULE V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission and the Coordinators appointed on the basis of Rule IV together with seven further members elected by the Commission at regular sessions from among the Members of the Commission, one each coming from the following geographic locations: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, South West Pacific. Not more than one delegate from any one country shall be a member of the Executive Committee. Members elected on a geographic basis shall hold office from the end of the session at which they were elected until the end of the second succeeding regular session and shall be eligible for re-election **if they have not served for more than two years in their current term**, but after having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to hold such office for the next succeeding term.

(Secretariat to take care of possible consequential changes)

APPENDIX II

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AND TO THE GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES

PROCEDURES FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

PART 3. UNIFORM PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

Step 8

The draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat to the Executive Committee for critical review and to the Commission, together with any written proposals received from Members and interested international organizations for amendments at Step 8, with a view to its adoption as a Codex standard. **In taking any decision at this step, the Commission will give due consideration to the outcome of the critical review and to any comments that may be submitted by any of its Members regarding the implications which the draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests.** In the case of Regional standards, all Members and interested international organizations may present their comments, take part in the debate and propose amendments but only the majority of Members of the region or group of countries concerned attending the session can decide to amend and adopt the draft.

PART 4. UNIFORM ACCELERATED PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

Step 5

In the case of standards identified as being subject to an accelerated elaboration procedure, the **proposed** draft standard is submitted through the Secretariat to the Executive Committee for critical review and to the Commission, together with any written proposals received from Members and interested international organizations for amendments, with a view to its adoption as a Codex standard. In taking any decision at this step, the Commission will give due consideration to **the outcome of the critical review and to any comments that may be submitted by any of its Members regarding the implications which the proposed draft standard or any provisions thereof may have for their economic interests.** **In the case of Regional standards, all Members and interested international organizations may present their comments, take part in the debate and propose amendments but only the majority of Members of the region or group of countries concerned attending the session can decide to amend and adopt the proposed draft.**

~~**GUIDE TO THE CONSIDERATION OF STANDARDS AT STEP 8 OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF ANY STATEMENTS RELATING TO ECONOMIC IMPACT**~~

~~1.—In order:~~

- ~~(a) to ensure that the work of the Codex committee concerned is not made less valuable by the passage of an insufficiently considered amendment in the Commission;~~
- ~~(b) at the same time to provide scope for significant amendments to be raised and considered in the Commission;~~
- ~~(c) to prevent, as far as practicable, lengthy discussion in the Commission on points that have been thoroughly argued in the Codex committee concerned;~~
- ~~(d) to ensure, as far as practicable, that delegations are given sufficient warning of amendments so that they may brief themselves adequately;~~

~~amendments to Codex standards at Step 8 should, as far as practicable, be submitted in writing, although amendments proposed in the Commission would not be excluded entirely, and the following procedure should be employed:~~

~~2.—When Codex standards are distributed to Member Countries prior to their consideration by the Commission at Step 8, the Secretariat will indicate the date by which proposed amendments must be~~

received; this date will be fixed so as to allow sufficient time for such amendments to be in the hands of governments not less than one month before the session of the Commission.

3. Governments should submit amendments in writing by the date indicated and should state that they had been previously submitted to the appropriate Codex committee with details of the submission of the amendment or should give the reason why the amendment had not been proposed earlier, as the case may be.

4. When amendments are proposed during a session of the Commission, without prior notice, to a standard which is at Step 8, the Chairperson of the Commission, after consultation with the chairperson of the appropriate committee, or, if the chairperson is not present, with the delegate of the chairing country, or, in the case of subsidiary bodies which do not have a chairing country, with other appropriate persons, shall rule whether such amendments are substantive.

5. If an amendment ruled as substantive is agreed to by the Commission, it shall be referred to the appropriate Codex committee for its comments and, until such comments have been received and considered by the Commission, the standard shall not be advanced beyond Step 8 of the Procedure.

6. It will be open to any Member of the Commission to draw to the attention of the Commission any matter concerning the possible implications of a draft standard for its economic interests, including any such matter which has not, in that Member's opinion, been satisfactorily resolved at an earlier step in the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards. All the information pertaining to the matter, including the outcome of any previous consideration by the Commission or a subsidiary body thereof should be presented in writing to the Commission, together with any draft amendments to the standard which would, in the opinion of the country concerned, take into account the economic implications. In considering statements concerning economic implications the Commission should have due regard to the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius concerning the protection of the health of consumers and the ensuring of fair practices in the food trade, as set forth in the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, as well as the economic interests of the Member concerned. It will be open to the Commission to take any appropriate action including referring the matter to the appropriate Codex committee for its comments.

GUIDE TO THE PROCEDURE FOR THE REVISION AND AMENDMENT OF CODEX STANDARDS

3. *The procedure for amending or revising a Codex standard is ~~would be as laid down in paragraphs 8 5 and 6~~ of the Introduction to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts.*

GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCES

REPORTS

[...]

The Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat should ensure that, as soon as possible and in any event not later than one month after the end of the session, copies of the final report, as adopted in the languages of the Committee, are sent to all **members and observers of the Commission participants, and all Codex Contact Points.**

Circular Letters should be attached to the report, as required, requesting comments on Proposed Draft or Draft Standards or Related Texts at Step 5, 8 or Step 5 (Accelerated), with the indication of the date by which comments or proposed amendments must be received in writing, so as to allow such comments to be considered by the Commission.

APPENDIX III

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS**Purpose of the Codex Alimentarius**

1. The Codex Alimentarius is a collection of internationally adopted food standards and related texts presented in a uniform manner. These food standards and related texts aim at protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. ~~The Codex Alimentarius also includes provisions of an advisory nature in the form of codes of practice, guidelines and other recommended measures intended to assist in achieving the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius.~~ The publication of the Codex Alimentarius is intended to guide and promote the elaboration and establishment of definitions and requirements for foods to assist in their harmonization and in doing so to facilitate international trade.

Scope of the Codex Alimentarius

2. The Codex Alimentarius includes standards for all the principal foods, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, for distribution to the consumer. Materials for further processing into foods should be included to the extent necessary to achieve the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius as defined. The Codex Alimentarius includes provisions in respect of food hygiene, food additives, ~~pesticide~~ pesticide residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs, contaminants, labelling and presentation, methods of analysis and sampling, and import and export inspection and certification. ~~It also includes provisions of an advisory nature in the form of codes of practice, guidelines and other recommended measures.~~

Nature of Codex Standards

3. Codex standards and related texts are not a substitute for, or alternative to national legislation. Every country's laws and administrative procedures contain provisions with which it is essential to comply.

43. Codex standards and related texts contain requirements for food aimed at ensuring for the consumer a safe sound, wholesome food product free from adulteration, correctly labelled and presented. A Codex standard for any food or foods should be drawn up in accordance with the Format for Codex Commodity Standards and contain, as appropriate, the sections ~~criteria~~ listed therein.

Revision of Codex Standards

54. The Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies are committed to revision as necessary of Codex standards and related texts to ensure that they are consistent with and reflect current scientific knowledge and other relevant information. When required, a standard or related text shall be revised or removed in accordance with the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts ~~using the same procedures as followed for the elaboration of a new standard~~. Each member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is responsible for identifying, and presenting to the appropriate committee, any new scientific and other relevant information which may warrant revision of any existing Codex standards or related texts.

APPENDIX IV

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND THE
COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS****Codex Committee on Food Additives****Terms of reference:**

- (a) to establish or endorse permitted maximum levels for individual food additives;
- (b) to prepare priority lists of food additives for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives;
- (c) to assign functional classes to individual food additives;
- (d) to recommend specifications of identity and purity for food additives for adoption by the Commission;
- (e) to consider methods of analysis for the determination of additives in food; and
- (f) to consider and elaborate standards or codes for related subjects such as the labelling of food additives when sold as such.

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods**Terms of reference:**

- (a) to establish or endorse permitted maximum levels or guidelines levels for contaminants and for naturally occurring toxicants in food and feed;
- (b) to prepare priority lists of contaminants for risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives;
- (c) to consider methods of analysis and sampling for the determination of contaminants in food and feed;
- (d) to develop standards or codes of practice for related subjects; and
- (e) to consider other matters assigned to it by the Commission in relation to contaminants in food and feed

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON
FOOD HYGIENE**

(a) to (f) [no change]

(g) to consider microbiological risk management matters in relation to food hygiene, including food irradiation, and in relation to the risk assessment of FAO and WHO.

DRAFT REVISED CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZATION PROCESS OF COMPOUNDS FOR EVALUATION BY JMPR

1. GENERAL CRITERIA

1.1 Criteria for Inclusion of Compounds on the Priority List

Before a pesticide can be considered for the Priority List it:

- i must be registered for use in a member country;
- ii must be available for use as a commercial product;
- iii must not have been already accepted for consideration; and
- iv must give rise to residues in or on a food or feed commodity moving in international trade, the presence of which is (or may be) a matter of public health concern and thus create (or have the potential to create) problems in international trade.

1.2 Criteria for Selecting Food Commodities for which Codex MRLs or EMRLs Should Be Established

The commodity for which the establishment of a Codex MRL or EMRL is sought should be such that it may form a component in international trade. A higher priority will be given to commodities that represent a significant proportion of the diet.

Note

Before proposing a pesticide/commodity for prioritization, it is recommended that governments check if the pesticide is already in the Codex system. Pesticide/commodity combinations that are already included in the Codex system or under consideration are found in a working document prepared for and used as a basis of discussion at each Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. Consult the document of the latest session to see whether or not a given pesticide has already been considered.

2. CRITERIA FOR PRIORITISATION

2.1 New Chemicals

When prioritizing new chemicals for evaluation by the JMPR, the Committee will consider the following criteria:

1. If the chemical has a reduced acute and/or chronic toxicity risk to humans compared with other chemicals in its classification (insecticide, fungicide, herbicide);
2. The date when the chemical was nominated for evaluation;
3. Commitment by the sponsor of the compound to provide supporting data for review with a firm date for data submission;
4. The availability of regional/national reviews and risk assessments, and coordination with other regional/national lists; and
5. Allocating priorities to new chemicals, so that at least 50% of evaluations are for new chemicals, if possible.

Note

In order to satisfy the criterion that the proposed new chemical is a “safer” or “reduced risk” replacement chemical, the nominating country is required to provide:

- i the name(s) of the chemicals for which the proposed chemical is likely to be an alternative;
- ii a comparison of the acute and chronic toxicities of the proposed chemical with other chemicals in its classification (insecticide, fungicide, herbicide);

- iii a summary of acute and chronic dietary exposure calculations encompassing the range of diets considered by CCPR; and
- iv other relevant information to support classification of the proposed chemical as a safer alternative chemical.

2.2 Periodic Re-Evaluation

When prioritizing chemicals for periodic re-evaluation by the JMPR, the Committee will consider the following criteria:

1. If the intake and/or toxicity profile indicate some level of public health concern;
2. Chemicals that have not been reviewed toxicologically for more than 15 years and/or not having a significant review of maximum residue limits for 15 years;
3. The year the chemical is listed in the list for Candidate Chemicals for Periodic Re-evaluation –Not Yet Scheduled;
4. The date that data will be submitted;
5. Whether the CCPR has been advised by a national government that the chemical has been responsible for trade disruption;
6. If there is a closely related chemical that is a candidate for periodic re-evaluation that can be evaluated concurrently; and
7. The availability of current labels arising from recent national re-evaluations.

2.3 Evaluations

When prioritizing proposed toxicological or residue evaluations by the JMPR the Committee will consider the following criteria:

1. The date the request was received;
2. Commitment by the sponsor to provide the required data for review with a firm date of submission;
3. Whether the data is submitted under the 4-year rule for evaluations; and
4. The nature of the data to be submitted, and the reason for its submission; for example, a request from CCPR.

Note:

Where a pesticide has already been evaluated by the JMPR and MRLs, EMRLs or GLs have been established, new evaluations may be initiated if one or more of the following situations arise:

- i New toxicological data becomes available to indicate a significant change in the ADI or ARfD.
- ii The JMPR may note a data deficiency in a Periodic Re-evaluation or New Chemical evaluation. In response, national governments or other interested parties may pledge to supply the information to the appropriate Joint Secretary of the JMPR with a copy for consideration by the CCPR. Following scheduling in the JMPR tentative schedule, the data should be submitted subsequently to the appropriate Joint Secretary of the JMPR.
- iii The CCPR may place a chemical under the four-year rule, in which case the government or industry should indicate support for the specific MRLs to the FAO Joint Secretary of the JMPR. Following scheduling in the JMPR tentative schedule, any data in support of maintenance of the MRL(s) would be submitted to the FAO Joint Secretary of the JMPR.
- iv A government member may seek to expand the use of an existing Codex chemical: that is, obtain MRLs for one or more new commodities where some MRLs already exist for other commodities. Such requests should be directed to the FAO Joint Secretary of the JMPR and submitted for consideration by the CCPR. Following scheduling in the JMPR tentative schedule, the data would be submitted to the FAO Joint Secretary of the JMPR.

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- v A government member may seek to review a MRL due to a change in GAP. For example a new GAP may necessitate a larger MRL. In this case the request should be made to the FAO Joint Secretary with a copy for consideration by the Committee. Following scheduling in the JMPR tentative schedule, the data would be submitted to the FAO Joint Secretary of the JMPR.
 - vi The CCPR may request a clarification or reconsideration of a recommendation from the JMPR. In such cases the relevant Joint Secretary will schedule the request for the next JMPR.
 - vii A serious public health concern may emerge in relation to a particular pesticide for which MRLs exist. In such cases government members should notify the WHO Joint Secretary of the JMPR promptly and provide appropriate data to the WHO Joint Secretary.

APPENDIX VI

THE USE OF ANALYTICAL RESULTS: SAMPLING PLANS, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS, THE MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY, RECOVERY FACTORS AND PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS

(To be included in the Codex Procedural Manual at the end of the sections on methods of analysis and sampling in the *Guidelines for the Inclusion of Specific Provisions in Codex Standards and Related Texts*)

ISSUES INVOLVED

There are a number of analytical and sampling considerations which prevent the uniform implementation of legislative standards. In particular, different approaches may be taken regarding sampling procedures, the use of measurement uncertainty and recovery corrections.

At present there is no official guidance on how to interpret analytical results in the framework of Codex. Significantly different decisions may be taken after analysis of the “same sample”. For example some countries use an “every-item-must-comply” sampling regime, others use an “average of a lot” regime, some deduct the measurement uncertainty associated with the result, others do not, some countries correct analytical results for recovery, others do not. This interpretation may also be affected by the number of significant figures included in any commodity specification.

It is essential that analytical results be ~~are~~ interpreted in the same way if there is to be harmonization in the framework of Codex.

It is stressed that this is not an analysis or sampling problem as such but an administrative problem which has been highlighted as the result of recent activities in the analytical sector, most notably the development of International Guidelines on the Use of Recovery Factors when Reporting Analytical Results and various Guides prepared dealing with Measurement Uncertainty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that when a Codex Commodity Committee discusses and agrees on a commodity specification and the analytical methods concerned, it states the following information in the Codex Standard:

1. Sampling Plans

The appropriate sampling plan, as outlined in the Guidelines for Sampling (CAC/GL 50-2004), Section 2.1.2 Guidelines on Sampling to control conformity of products with the specification. This should state:

- whether the specification applies to every item in a lot; or to the average in a lot, or the proportion non-conforming;
- the appropriate acceptable quality level to be used;
- the acceptance conditions of a lot controlled, in relation to the qualitative/quantitative characteristic determined on the sample.

2. Measurement Uncertainty

An allowance is to be made for the measurement uncertainty when deciding whether or not an analytical result falls within the specification. This requirement may not apply in situations when a direct health hazard is concerned, such as for food pathogens.

3. Recovery

Analytical results are to be expressed on a recovery corrected basis where appropriate and relevant, and when corrected it has to be so stated.

If a result has been corrected for recovery, the method by which the recovery was taken into account should be stated. The recovery rate is to be quoted wherever possible.

When laying down provisions for standards, it will be necessary to state whether the result obtained by a method used for analysis within conformity checks shall be expressed on an recovery-corrected basis or not..

4. Significant Figures

The units in which the results are to be expressed and the number of significant figures to be included in the reported result.