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# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 13

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### *Thirtieth Session*

*FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 2 – 7 July 2007*

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION, CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

#### Matters Arising after 9 March 2007

#### I. MATTERS FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

##### THE 29<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

##### **Revision of WHO Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality<sup>1</sup>**

1. Comments from Mexico in response to CL 2006/13-NMW, which were not included in the Annex to ALINORM 07/30/9D are presented in the Annex 1 to this document.

##### THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS (CCCF)

##### **Amendments to Schedule I of the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods<sup>2</sup>**

2. The Committee agreed to forward for adoption by the Commission the following amendments to Schedule I: i) deletion of references 'CS 248-2005' and their replacement by the adoption year '2005'; ii) reorganization of contaminants into the following four categories: metals, mycotoxins, other chemicals and radionuclides.

3. The Commission **is invited** to adopt the amendments proposed by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods.

##### THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES (CCGP)

##### **Proposed Draft Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food<sup>3</sup>**

4. The Committee decided to circulate the Proposed Draft Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food for comments at Step 3.

<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 06/29/9F-Add.1.

<sup>2</sup> ALINORM 07/30/41, para. 46.

<sup>3</sup> ALINORM 07/30/33, paras 106-107 and Appendix IX.

5. The Committee also decided to forward the recommendation from the CCFICS to the Commission for endorsement, with a minor amendment, as follows:

- a) Codex should encourage member countries to further implement the provisions in existing CCFICS texts related to the “*subsequent export of food, whether imported or produced domestically, that had been found to be unsafe or unsuitable*”;
- b) Codex should encourage FAO, WHO and other international organizations to give priority to providing technical assistance to member countries with insufficient capacity for establishing and implementing food import and export control systems;
- c) Codex should encourage those member countries with insufficient control systems to give priority in their capacity building/technical assistance needs assessments to the issue of import control systems.

6. The Commission **is invited** to endorse the above recommendations.

#### **Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts<sup>4</sup>**

7. The 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission referred a number of comments from India on the Procedures for Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts to the CCGP. The CCGP at its 22<sup>nd</sup> Session agreed that the Delegation of India would prepare a discussion paper providing the objectives and rationale for the proposed changes to the Elaboration Procedure for consideration by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee. At its 23<sup>rd</sup> Session, the CCGP briefly discussed the paper but considered that it was yet premature to request approval of the Commission to initiate new work on these subjects and agreed that the discussion of the issue be continued at its 24<sup>th</sup> Session. The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee held discussion on the basis of document CX/GP 06/23/6 Part-I and agreed to forward the content of the discussion on the Procedure for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts to the Commission for further advice.

8. The Commission **is requested** to provide advice on how to proceed with the proposal for new work on the revision of the Procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts.

#### **THE 39<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CCFA)**

##### **Codex General Standard for Food Additives - Food Category 02.2.1.2<sup>5</sup>**

9. The Committee agreed to ask clarification on the request of the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to review Food Category 02.2.1.2 “margarine and similar products” in order to ensure one-to-one correspondence with the relevant commodity standards, in the light of the possible revocation of the Codex Standard for Margarine (CODEX STAN 32-1981) subsequent to the adoption of the draft Standard for Fat Spreads and Blended Spreads. In addition, the Committee agreed to delete Food Category 02.2.1.2 “margarine and similar products” from the Annex to Table 3 of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives.

10. The Commission **is asked** to clarify the request to review Food Category 02.2.1.2 “margarine and similar products” of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives in light of the decision on the revocation of the Codex Standard for Margarine (CODEX STAN 32-1981) and to adopt the deletion of Food Category 02.2.1.2 from the Annex to table of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives.

##### **Codex General Standard for Food Additives - Food Category 02.1.1<sup>6</sup>**

11. The Committee agreed to add a footnote “excludes anhydrous milk fat” for all entries in Food Category 2.1.1 “Butter oil, anhydrous milkfat, ghee” of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives to address the exclusion of anhydrous milk fat to the permissions for antioxidants that was originally contained in the food additive provisions on the Codex Standard for Milkfat Products (CODEX STAN A-02-1973).

12. The Commission **is invited** to adopt the amendment proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

<sup>4</sup> ALINORM 07/30/33, paras 106-130.

<sup>5</sup> ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev., paras 116 and 71.

<sup>6</sup> ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev., para. 167.

THE 39<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES (CCPR)**Enforcement of Codex MRLs at the national level<sup>7</sup>**

13. The Committee considered the issue relating to the enforcement of MRLs at the national level and agreed to inform the Commission of the discussion and request its guidance and advice on how the issue should be addressed (see ALINORM 07/30/24, paras 204-211).

14. The Commission **is invited** to provide guidance and advice on how the issue of enforcement of MRLs for pesticide at national level should be addressed.

**II. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION TO THE COMMISSION**THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES (CCGP)**Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8 in the Procedural Manual<sup>8</sup>**

15. The Committee agreed that there was no consensus to reinsert the Guide in the Procedural Manual and agreed to inform the Commission that it confirmed its earlier decision and did not wish to reconsider this question further.

**Terms of Reference of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees<sup>9</sup>**

16. The Committee agreed that all Coordinating Committees be invited to discuss institutional and other implications of changing their terms of reference, at their next session and that those Coordinating Committees wishing to practice the adoption of regional positions should continue to do so under their current terms of reference and to report back to the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the CCGP on their experiences.

THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS (CCCF)**Guideline levels for methylmercury in fish<sup>10</sup>**

17. The Committee reaffirmed the decision made by the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (ALINORM 06/29/12 para.192) to postpone consideration of the need to revise the guideline levels for methylmercury in fish pending the outcomes of a joint FAO/WHO expert consultation on health risks associated with methylmercury and dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in fish and the health benefits of fish consumption and to retain the current Codex guideline levels for the time being.

THE 39<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CCFA)**Codex General Standard for Food Additives - integration of food additive provisions of Codex commodity standards into the GSFA<sup>11</sup>**

18. The Committee agreed to a set of principles to be considered as a starting point for proposing revisions for the integration of food additive provisions of Codex commodity standards into the GSFA and to request the Codex Secretariat to collect all information on food additives contained in Codex commodity standards into a document to be presented at the next session of the Committee. It further agreed to continue its discussion on how to proceed with the work on integration at its next meeting.

35<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING (CCFL)***WHO/FAO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health<sup>12</sup>***

19. The Committee considered the proposed actions contained in the Draft Action Plan for Implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health prepared by WHO and FAO, especially.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>7</sup> ALINORM 07/30/24, paras 204-211.

<sup>8</sup> ALINORM 07/30/33, para. 12.

<sup>9</sup> ALINORM 07/30/33, para. 22.

<sup>10</sup> ALINORM 07/30/41, para. 35.

<sup>11</sup> ALINORM 07/30/12 Rev., paras 85-88.

<sup>12</sup> ALINORM 07/30/22, paras 20-64.

<sup>13</sup> CL 2006/44-CAC.

20. The Committee did not support the amendment of the Purpose of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling*, did not come to a conclusion on the need to amend the *Guidelines* to require mandatory nutrient declaration, on the revision of the current list of nutrients that should always be declared, and on the development of additional criteria for nutrient presentation. There was no support to undertake new work on nutrition claims for trans fatty acids.

21. The Committee agreed with the proposal of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses to revise the list of vitamins and minerals but did not reach a conclusion on the extension of the list to other nutrients.

THE 39<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES (CCPR)

**Proposed draft revision of the list of Methods for Pesticide Residue Analysis<sup>14</sup>**

22. The Committee agreed that the list of methods for determination of pesticides would not be developed as a Codex document in the Step Procedure but would stay as repository list on the IAEA website.

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<sup>14</sup> ALINORM 07/30/24, paras 161-164.

**Annex 1****Position of Mexico on Health Related Limits for Certain Substances in the Codex Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108 - 1981, Rev. 1 - 1997)**

Mexico informs that as mineral waters do not receive any treatment to reduce the quantity of metals present and as direct reference is made to the WHO Guidelines, it supports the substitution of current Section 3.2 of the Codex Standard with the text that appears in Section 3.2.1 of the Codex General Standard for Drinking Waters (i.e. direct reference to the WHO Guidelines), in full and with the subscripts for guideline and quality parameters, so that there is no need to update the Codex standard each time the Guidelines are updated.

Mexico also requests that renewed consideration be given to Codex General Standard for Bottled/Packaged Drinking Waters (Other than Natural Mineral Waters) (CODEX STAN 227-2001) in order to examine its content and the possibility of unifying both standards (Drinking Waters and Mineral Waters), given that they have similar characteristics, only with a section inserted for those parameters that characterize them.