



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

**Eighth Session
The Hague, The Netherlands, 31 March - 4 April 2014**

**MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
AND/OR OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES/TASK FORCES**

A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 36th SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

Standards and related texts adopted at Steps 8, 5/8 (with omission of Steps 6/7) and 5 of the Procedure

Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Cocoa and Code of Practice to reduce the presence of Hydrocyanic Acid in Cassava and Cassava Products

1. The Commission adopted these documents at Step 5/8.¹

Maximum levels for lead in fruit juices and nectars, ready-to-drink; canned fruits and canned vegetables

2. The 7th Session of the Committee on Contaminants in Food (April 2013) agreed to advance the ML of 0.03 mg/kg for fruit juices and nectars, ready-to-drink (excluding juices from berries and other small fruits); the ML of 0.1 mg/kg for canned fruits, including canned mixed fruits (excluding canned berry and other small fruits); and the ML of 0.1 mg/kg for canned vegetables, including canned mixed vegetables (excluding canned brassica vegetables, canned leafy vegetables and canned legume vegetables) to the Commission for adoption at Step 5/8.²

3. The 36th Session of the Commission (July 2013) noted that there was wide support for further work on the MLs for lead in fruit juices and nectars, ready-to-drink; canned fruits and canned vegetables and the views expressed on the need to consider more geographically representative data. The Commission therefore agreed to adopt the MLs at Step 5 with the understanding that countries would submit data to GEMS/Food database within a year, to allow the Committee to further consider the revision of the MLs in 2015 for submission to the 38th Session of the Commission.³

4. In view of the decision of the Commission, comments have not been requested at Step 6 on the MLs for lead in fruit juices and nectars, ready-to-drink; canned fruits and canned vegetables until further data are submitted to GEMS/Food in reply to the circular letter CL 2013/23-CF (deadline for comments 31 July 2014).

5. The Committee is invited to consider if additional data submitted to GEMS/Foods could be reviewed by the electronic working group on the revision of the MLs for lead in the *Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* with a view to confirm the MLs proposed at the 7th CCCF or to recommend revised MLs for comments at Step 6 and consideration by the 9th CCCF in 2015.

6. This proposal can be considered when discussing the MLs for lead in fresh fruits and vegetables and other selected commodities (Agenda Item 5).

Maximum levels for deoxynivalenol (DON) in cereal-based foods for infants and young children; in flour, semolina, meal and flakes (wheat, maize and barley); and in raw cereal grains (wheat, maize or barley) and associated sampling plans

7. The 7th Session of the Committee agreed to the ML of 2 mg/kg for raw cereals (wheat, maize and barley) prior to sorting and removal of damaged kernels with the associated sampling plan with sample size of 5 kg for maize and 1 kg for wheat and barley. For flour, semolina, meal and flakes derived from wheat, maize or barley, the Committee agreed to establish a ML of 1 mg/kg. For cereal-based foods for infants and young children, the Committee agreed to establish the ML of 0.2 mg/kg and that this ML would apply to cereal-based foods as consumed.

8. The Committee further agreed to forward the MLs for raw cereal grains including associated sampling plan, and for flour, semolina, meal and flakes from wheat, maize or barley to Step 5 and the ML for cereal-based foods for infants and young children to Step 5/8 for adoption by the 36th Session of the Commission.⁴

¹ REP13/CAC, Appendix III.

² REP13/CF, paras 23-43, Appendix II.

³ REP13/CAC, paras 73-79, Appendix IV.

⁴ REP13/CF, paras 55-70, Appendix III.

9. The 36th Session of the Commission noted that the ML for DON in cereal-based foods for infants and young children was presented to the Commission as applying to cereal-based foods “as consumed”. The Commission noted that clarification was needed on whether the ML should apply to cereal-based foods for infants and young children “as consumed” or to the “dry matter” and therefore agreed to adopt the ML at Step 5 for further consideration in CCCF.⁵

10. As regards the other MLs and sampling plan, the Commission noted that while there was support for the adoption of the MLs, there were also concerns expressed either to all the MLs in general or to the MLs for raw cereal grains in particular. The Commission adopted the MLs at Step 5 and recommended that the Committee give further consideration to the pending issues. The Commission noted the reservation on the ML for raw cereal grains, on the sampling plan for raw cereal grains, and on the MLs for raw cereal grains and for flour, semolina, meal and flakes derived from wheat, maize or barley.⁶

11. Following the decision of the Commission, the Codex Secretariat issued a circular letter, CL 2013/24-CF, requesting comments at Step 6 for consideration by the 8th CCCF. Comments submitted in reply to this CL are available in CX/CF 14/8/7.

12. This matter will be discussed under Agenda Item 7. The Committee is invited to consider how to proceed further with these MLs and associated sampling plan

Revocation of maximum levels for lead in individual standards for canned fruits and canned vegetables

13. Following the decision on the MLs for lead in canned fruits and canned vegetables (see paras ##), the Commission retained the MLs for lead in individual standards for canned fruits and canned vegetables in the GSCTFF pending the outcome of the discussion on MLs for lead in canned fruits and canned vegetables at the 9th CCCF.⁷

Consequential amendments to the Standards for Edible Cassava Flour, Gari and Sweet Cassava

14. The Commission agreed with the transfer of MLs for hydrocyanic acid for cassava flour and gari to the GSCTFF and the consequential amendments to the Standards for Edible Cassava Flour, Gari and Sweet Cassava (reference to GSCTFF in the section on contaminants).⁸

Discontinuation of work

15. The Commission approved discontinuation of work on the establishment of MLs for hydrocyanic acid in cassava and cassava-based products.⁹

16. The Commission also approved discontinuation of work on the revision of the guideline levels for radionuclides in the GSCTFF including development of guidance to facilitate application and implementation of the GLs.⁹

17. In this regard, the 8th CCCF noted that after completion of the work carried out by the Inter-agency Working Group led by IAEA, the Committee could decide to start new work on radionuclides as necessary¹⁰ (see Agenda Item 4).

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM CODEX COMMITTEES RELATED TO THE WORK OF CCCF

COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING (CCMAS)

18. The 8th CCCF agreed to request the advice of CCMAS on the appropriateness of the performance criteria for methods of analysis for DON to ensure consistency with the *Working Instructions for the Implementation of the Criteria Approach in Codex*.¹¹

19. The 35th CCMAS (March 2014) considered this request as follows¹²:

Methods of analysis

20. The Committee noted that the proposal was consistent with criteria of the methods of analysis for aflatoxins currently listed in *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CODEX STAN 193-1995), which had been endorsed before the *Guidelines for Establishing Numeric Values for Method Criteria and/or Assessing Methods for Compliance thereof* was finalized by the Committee. The Committee, noting that the criteria of the methods for DON should be in line with the Guidelines, agreed not to endorse the criteria proposed by CCCF and proposed alternative criteria that the Committee can endorse, for consideration by CCCF.

21. The proposed method criteria for DON in raw cereal grains (wheat, maize and barley) is reproduced in the Annex for consideration by CCCF.

⁵ REP13/CAC, para 80.

⁶ REP13/CAC, paras 96-100.

⁷ REP13/CAC, para 102.

⁸ REP13/CAC, Appendix III.

⁹ REP13/CAC, Appendix VII.

¹⁰ REP13/CF, paras 51-54.

¹¹ REP13/CF, paras. 60-63.

¹² REP13/MAS, paras 19-22, Appendix III.

Sampling plans

22. The Committee agreed not to endorse the sampling plan and to request CCCF (1) to provide the rationale why the aggregate sample weight was 1-5 kg; (2) to consider whether 3 increment samples is sufficient for samples not more than 50 kg; and (3) to consider whether particle size should be specified for the test portion.

23. The reply from CCMAS will be considered under Agenda Item 8.

ANNEX

(For consideration by CCCF)

Provision	ML (mg/kg)	LOD	LOQ	Precision on HorRat	Minimum applicable range (mg/kg)	Recovery	Applicable methods that meet criteria	Principle
deoxynivalenol	2	0.2	0.4	≤2	1 – 3	80 – 110%		