

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

CX/CF 14/8/5-Add.2

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

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

Eighth Session

The Hague, The Netherlands, 31 March – 4 April 2014

PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION OF THE MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR LEAD IN SELECTED COMMODITIES IN THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR CONTAMINANTS AND TOXINS IN FOOD AND FEED (CODEX STAN 193-1995)

Comments at Step 3 received by European Union and United States of America

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work on the proposed draft revision of the maximum levels for lead in selected commodities performed by the electronic Working Group under the lead of United States.

The EU agrees with the recommendations made by the electronic working group to revise or maintain maximum levels as proposed on condition that the notes and remarks currently present in the GSCTFF are maintained. The EU further agrees to pursue new work to set MLs for dried fruits and for stalk and stem vegetables.

The EU especially welcomes the lowering of the ML for infant formula, including follow-on formulas and formula for special medical purposes to 0.01 mg/kg.

For the category of berries and small fruits, the proposed lowering of the maximum level to 0.1 mg/kg seems acceptable when applied to the occurrence data of this group as a whole. However, when the data are split into the individual species or varieties of berries and small fruits, the proposed reduction seems more problematic for some berries such as cranberries, currants, elderberries and strawberry tree.

The EU would therefore propose to postpone consideration of the draft ML of 0,1 mg/kg for berries and small fruits to the 9th session of CCCF to allow time for interested countries to submit additional data for analysis with the understanding that if no additional data were made available, the Committee would consider the proposed lower ML for adoption at the 9th Session.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The U.S. agrees with the recommendations made by the electronic Working Group to revise or maintain maximum levels (MLs) as follows:

- Assorted (sub)tropical fruits, edible peel: Maintain the current ML of 0.1 mg/kg.
- Assorted (sub)tropical fruits, inedible peel: Maintain the current ML of 0.1 mg/kg.
- Berries and other small fruits: Consider lowering the ML to 0.1 mg/kg.
- Citrus fruits: Maintain the current ML of 0.1 mg/kg.
- Pome fruits: Maintain the current ML of 0.1 mg/kg.
- Stone fruits: Maintain the current ML of 0.1 mg/kg.
- Dried fruits: Consider whether to pursue new work to set MLs for dried fruits.
- Brassica vegetables: Consider lowering the ML to 0.1 mg/kg.
- Bulb vegetables: Maintain the current ML of 0.1 mg/kg.
- Fruiting vegetables, cucurbits: Consider lowering the ML to 0.05 mg/kg.
- Fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits: Consider lowering the ML to 0.05 mg/kg, but excluding fungi and mushrooms.
- Leafy vegetables: Maintain the current ML of 0.3 mg/kg.
- Legume vegetables: Consider lowering the ML to 0.1 mg/kg.
- Root and tuber vegetables: Maintain the current ML of 0.1 mg/kg.
- Stalk and stem vegetables: Consider whether to pursue new work to set MLs for stalk and stem vegetables.
- Secondary milk products: Maintain the current ML of 0.02 mg/kg.
- Infant formula: Consider lowering the ML for infant formula, including follow-on formulas and formula for special medical purposes, to 0.01 mg/kg.

The U.S. also agrees that, revision of maximum levels of lead in additional commodities should be postponed until the 10th CCCF because work on fruit juices and canned fruits and vegetables will resume in 2015 for consideration at the 9th CCCF.