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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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Agenda Item 11 **CX/CF 14/8/11-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 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR WEED CONTROL TO PREVENT AND REDUCE PYRROLIZIDINE ALKALOID CONTAMINATION IN FOOD AND FEED

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

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) welcome and appreciate the good work performed by the Electronic Working Group chaired by the Netherlands on the proposed draft Code of Practice for weed control to prevent and reduce pyrrolizidine alkaloid (PA) contamination in food and feed.

The EUMS agree with the proposed structure that is based on the management practice, with additionally separate subheadings describing specific measures applicable for different land types.

The EUMS have the following comments on the proposed draft Code of Practice:

§§ 17, 18 and 19: The principles for assessing and managing the risk proposed have used information available on ragwort and were extended to all PA-containing weeds. Therefore, it seems appropriate to refer in §§ 17 and 18 to ragwort (instead of PA-containing plants) and to add in § 19 that these risk assessments and resulting actions could also be applied for other PA-containing plants however hereby taking into account the different ecology of the different PA-containing plants.

§24: The need to protect the operators' skin is not related to the risk of the PA's present in the plant but because contact with some plants might cause an allergic reaction. It might be appropriate to add this for completeness.

§ 34: As regards the use of insects as bio-control agents, it might be appropriate to add at the end of the paragraph that research has shown that these methods are generally only very effective in the case of non-native plants.

§ 43: It is questionable if the grazing management can be advised on low-level, widespread infestations taking into account animal welfare concerns unless it concerns livestock which have or have developed PA resistance to a certain extent as referred to in § 45. Therefore, it is appropriate to first mention the existence of PA resistant livestock and then indicate that such livestock can be used in grazing management.

The EUMS would agree, after having taken into account the comments made at the Plenary, to forward the proposed draft Code of Practice for weed control to prevent and reduce pyrrolizidine alkaloid contamination in food and feed to the 37th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption eventually at Step 5/8 (with omission of Steps 6 and 7), if this would be found appropriate.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The U.S. supports the electronic Working Group recommendations, namely, to structure the code of practice based on management practice, with additional separate sub-headings describing specific measures applicable for different land types to help national authorities identify which local plants to target for weed control, and to make available a list of PA-containing plants which would be a appended to the code of practice. To that end, the U.S. agrees with the recommendation to update the list previously presented at the last session of the Committee (CX/CF 11/5/14).