

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 6(b)

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

*Fiftieth Session, FAO Headquarters, Rome, 26-28 June 2002*

#### CONSIDERATION OF NEW WORK PROPOSALS AT STEP 1 OF THE PROCEDURE

1. The Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts states that:

*The Commission decides, taking into account the "Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities", that a standard should be elaborated and also which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work. Decisions to elaborate standards may also be taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria subject to subsequent approval by the Commission or its Executive Committee at the earliest possible opportunity.*

2. The Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities require that:

*When a Codex Committee proposes to elaborate a standard, code of practice or related text within its terms of reference, it should first consider the priorities established by the Commission in the Medium-Term Plan of Work, any specific relevant strategic project currently being undertaken by the Commission and the prospect of completing the work within a reasonable period of time.*

#### **Proposed New Work**

3. New work items proposed by Committees that have met since the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission and 20 May 2002 are presented in the attached Tables, as follows:

|         |                                       |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Table 1 | Proposals for New Work at Step 1      |
| Table 2 | Proposals for Discontinuation of Work |

4. There have been no proposals for new work under the Accelerated Procedure.
5. The Executive Committee is invited to consider these proposals.

**TABLE 1: PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK (STEP 1)**

| <b>ITEM</b> | <b>PROPOSAL</b>   | <b>COMMITTEE</b> | <b>REFERENCE</b>              |
|-------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.          | Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Validation of Food Hygiene Control Measures: Annex to International Code of Practice-General Principles of Food Hygiene       | CCFH             | ALINORM 03/13, para 163-167   |
| 2.          | Proposed Draft Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance  | CCRVDF           | ALINORM 03/31, para. 77       |
| 3.          | Proposed Draft Revised Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods                              | CCRVDF           | ALINORM 03/31, para. 102      |
| 4.          | Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or Re-evaluation   | CCRVDF           | ALINORM 03/31, Appendix VII   |
| 5.          | Proposed Draft Standard for Processed Cheese  | CCMMP            | ALINORM 03/11, paras. 102-103 |
| 6.          | Proposed Draft Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products  | CCMMP            | ALINORM 03/11, paras. 121-122 |
| 7.          | Proposed Draft Revised Codex Standard for Whey Cheeses  | CCMMP            | ALINORM 03/11, para. 130      |
| 8.          | Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of Aflatoxins in Tree Nuts  | CCFAC            | ALINORM 03/12, para. 128      |
| 9.          | Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead in Food  | CCFAC            | ALINORM 03/12, para. 138      |
| 10.         | Guideline levels for radionuclides in foods for long-term use   | CCFAC            | See Annex 1                   |
| 11.         | Revision or amendments to Guideline Levels for Radionuclides in Foods Following Accidental Nuclear Contamination for Use in International Trade (CAC/GL 5-1989) | CCFAC            | See Annex 1                   |

**TABLE 2: PROPOSALS FOR THE DISCONTINUATION OF WORK**

| <b>ITEM</b> | <b>PROPOSAL</b>  | <b>COMMITTEE</b> | <b>REFERENCE</b>         |
|-------------|--|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.          | Proposed Draft Guidelines for Residues at Injection Sites                  | CCRVDF           | ALINORM 03/31, para. 58  |
| 2.          | Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Cadmium in Crustaceans, Liver and Kidney | CCFAC            | ALINORM 03/12, para. 142 |
| 3.          | Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for certain pesticides               | CCPR             | ALINORM 03/24, Annex 2   |

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**LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

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Vienna, 2002-04-30

Dear Mr. Randell,

During the 44th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (the Agency) in 2000, a resolution (GC(44)/RES/15) was passed which requested the Agency's Secretariat *"to develop, using the Agency's radiation protection advisory mechanisms and in collaboration with the competent organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies concerned, during the next two years and within available resources, radiological criteria for long-lived radionuclides in commodities, particularly foodstuffs and wood, and to submit them to the Board of Governors for its approval"*.

In response to this resolution, the Agency is developing a Safety Guide entitled **"Radionuclide Content in Commodities not requiring Regulation for Purposes of Radiation Protection"**. During the development of this document, a number of issues were raised concerning the derivation of guidance levels for radionuclides in foods that can be traded on the free market, most notably, during a recent Technical Meeting. These are as follows:

1. The guideline levels presented in the Codex Alimentarius (CAC/GL 5) are applicable for one year following a nuclear accident but may not be applicable to longer term situations. It was suggested that consideration should be given to whether the Codex Alimentarius levels can be applied to long term situations or, if not, the values that would be appropriate for long-term use.
2. The Codex Alimentarius guideline levels are for a very limited set of radionuclides. There is however the potential for other radionuclides to be present in foodstuffs. It was therefore suggested that the list should be broadened to include most of the radionuclides, including those of natural origin, that are currently listed in Schedule I of the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources, which have been co-sponsored by inter alia, FAO, WHO and the Agency.

In view of the obligation placed on the Agency by the afore-mentioned resolution, the issues raised during the Agency's subsequent response and the responsibilities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, I am writing to request the Commission to consider guideline levels for radionuclides in foodstuffs for long-term use and also broadening the guidance levels as mentioned above. The Agency would be pleased to assist the Commission in this and is prepared to make available the results of preliminary work carried out by its Secretariat on the derivation of such levels.

Yours sincerely,

Abel J. Gonzalez

Director

Division of Radiation and Waste Safety