

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
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ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 16 (c)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Thirty-fourth Session

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 11-15 March 2002

PROPOSED DRAFT MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR TIN

BACKGROUND

1. The 31st Session (March 1999) of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC) advanced the proposed draft maximum levels for tin (200 mg/kg in liquid canned foods, 250 mg/kg in solid canned foods) to the Commission for adoption at Step 5.¹

2. The 23rd Session (July 1999) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) decided to hold the proposed draft maximum levels at Step 5 pending the re-evaluation of the acute toxicity of tin by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA).²

3. The 55th Meeting of JECFA was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 6 to 15 June 2000. In regard to tin, JECFA recommended that the provisional tolerable weekly intake (PTWI) of 14 mg/kg bw be maintained. JECFA assessed the acute toxicity of tin, but data were insufficient for establishing an acute reference dose. It reiterated the conclusion that it reached at its 33rd meeting (WHO Technical Report Series No. 776, 1989) that the limited human data available indicate that concentrations of 150 mg/kg in canned beverages and 250 mg/kg in other canned foods may produce acute manifestations of gastric irritation in certain individuals³.

4. In consideration that the 55th Meeting of JECFA (June 2000) had considered toxicology and acute reference doses of tin, the 33rd Session (March 2001) of CCFAC agreed that the proposed draft levels for tin should be re-examined at its next session.⁴

¹ ALINORM 99/12A, para. 131 and Appendix IX

² ALINORM 99/37, paras. 185-186

³ Report of the 55th Meeting of JECFA, June 2000, WHO Technical Report Series 901, WHO, Geneva.

⁴ ALINORM 01/12A, para. 112