

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 14 (b)

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(English only)

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS**

Thirty-eighth Session

The Hague, the Netherlands, 24 – 28 April 2006

DRAFT MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR CADMIUM

Comments at Step 6 submitted in response to CL 2005/36-FAC by European Community

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The 28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted the draft maximum level for cadmium of 1,0 mg/kg in marine bivalve molluscs (excluding oysters and scallops), 1,0 mg in cephalopods (without viscera) and 0.4 mg/kg in rice, polished at step 5 and advanced these level for comments and discussion at the 38th session of CCFAC.

The European Community (EC) can agree on the draft maximum level for cadmium of 1,0 mg/kg in marine bivalve molluscs (excluding oysters and scallops) and 1,0 mg in cephalopods (without viscera).

As regards the proposed maximum level for cadmium of 0.4 mg/kg in polished rice, the EC reiterates its comments made at previous sessions of CCFAC.

Because rice is a significant contributor to the human dietary cadmium intake, the EC cannot support the setting of a worldwide standard of 0.4 mg/kg of cadmium in rice, moreover as it appears to be a regional issue with only rice produced in that specific region containing cadmium levels up to 0.4 mg/kg, being influenced by geological factors. It furthermore appears that such rice is not exported, in which case it would be possible to set the original proposed level of 0.2 mg/kg for rice as worldwide standard on the basis that this level is achievable for products in international trade.

In case the Committee decides, on insistence of some Member Countries, to forward the maximum level of 0.4 mg/kg for cadmium in polished rice for adoption at Step 8 by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the EC will express its reservation to this decision.