

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 2

CX/MAS 02/2-Add.1

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING**

**Twenty-fourth Session
Budapest, Hungary, 18-22 November 2002**

**MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES**

METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR DIOXINS

In addition to the information provided in CX/MAS 02/2 (section C. 1) on the consideration of methods for dioxins, the following comments were received from Germany.

COMMENTS OF GERMANY

At the 23rd Session of the above Committee the Delegation of Germany was requested to draw up a list of testing methods for the identification of dioxins. For this purpose all member states were asked to send information on such methods or method descriptions to the Delegation of Germany (ALINORM 01/23, para.15). Please find my comments below:

With reference to the report on the last session of the Committee (ALINORM 01/23, para. 15) the Delegation of Germany did not receive any information.

As regards Germany I would like to point out that there is no official method of analysis for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in foods. Within the European Union it is envisaged that member states should take all necessary measures to ensure that the preparation of samples and the testing methods used for official control of dioxin and furan contents as well as for the determination of the content of dioxin-like PCB in foods should meet certain criteria. The European Commission is presently preparing a relevant proposal for a directive governing the definition of sampling and testing methods for the official control of dioxins as well for the determination of dioxin-like PCBs in foods. A report on these activities can be accessed at http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/rc/stcan/rap44_en.pdf. The proposal does not contain a description of methods.

In the field of official food inspection a system of quality standards is thus introduced for laboratories which member states have entrusted with official food control.

A document was drawn up within the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which describes a standardized toolkit for the identification and quantification of dioxin and furan releases. The document can be accessed on the Internet site at <http://www.chem.unep.ch/sc/followup>. This document does not describe in detail any methods for the identification of dioxins.

In view of this situation it is suggested that a circular letter be sent to the delegations with the request to transmit method descriptions. The Delegation of Germany is prepared to collect and compile the incoming information.