

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 4b)

CX/MAS 02/5-Add.2

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

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR CODEX PURPOSES

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CODEX METHODS OF ANALYSIS IN THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS

UNITED STATES

General Comments

The U.S. supports providing clear guidance and simplifying the “Working Instructions for the Implementation of Criteria Approach in Codex” that has been skillfully begun by Sweden. However, we believe there needs to be a general acceptance of this wording by the entire CCMAS Committee and some further refinement of the document with respect to clarifying when to use the criteria approach as suggested in our specific comments below.

Specific Comments

CX/MAS 02/5 - Proposed Text for Working Instructions for the Implementation of Criteria Approach in Codex

Paragraph 1, sentences 1 to 3: We suggest modifying these sentences to make it clear that the Criteria Approach only applies to Type III methods and to emphasize that it is the responsibility of the Commodity Committee to provide the criteria. It is also recommended that examples of Type III methods that meet the specified criteria be retained along with the criteria in order to provide valuable guidance to users. We offer the following revisions of these sentences to accomplish these recommendations with the changes highlighted. “Codex Commodity Committees should continue to propose an appropriate Type I (defining) or Type II (reference) method of analysis for determining the chemical entity, or for Type III (alternative) methods they may develop a set of criteria to which a method used for the determination must comply. In rare cases a Codex Commodity Committee may recommend a specific Type III method and request the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) to “convert” that method into appropriate criteria. The Criteria will then be considered by the CCMAS for endorsement and will, after the endorsement, form part of the commodity standard and be included along with examples of alternative methods that meet these criteria.”