

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
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ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 5

CX/MAS 02/6-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
PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDELINES ON MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY
GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3¹

UNITED STATES

GENERAL COMMENTS

The U.S. supports the development of the Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CX/MAS-02/6). However, we agree with the general comments and recommendations of New Zealand to modify the Guidelines as detailed in CX/MAS 02/6-Add.1. We believe that the Guidelines should explicitly recognize that they are for use in “conformance testing of imported food at the national level”. We also support New Zealand’s suggestion that there should be a statement, possibly in the Introduction section of the Guidelines, “noting that any single analytical test result relates only to the single sample, and that a statistically valid sampling plan must be utilized to obtain values representative of a larger quantity of a food product”.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

The U.S. agrees with New Zealand’s comment on the third sentence of the Introduction section of CX/MAS 02/6 that single laboratory validation does not provide estimates of reproducibility, an essential and usually major component of measurement uncertainty. We support New Zealand’s suggestion in CS/MAS 02/6-Add.1 for the addition of a note that where inter-laboratory studies are not possible, then a satisfactory surrogate for reproducibility such as the intra-laboratory reproducibility, or an approximation such as the Horwitz criterion, must be found. The U.S. also supports New Zealand’s suggestion in CX/MAS 02/6-Add.1 that the following text be added to recommendation 2 of the Recommendations section of CX/MAS 02/6: “Where an estimate of the uncertainty is made available to the user of the results, the basis by which it was derived should be included” (e.g., single lab validation, collaborative study). We also endorse New Zealand’s new recommendation that “...analytical results should be reported as either corrected or uncorrected for recovery and annotated accordingly. In both cases, the estimation of the recovery factor that applies should be appended” and the source noted.

¹ in reply to CL 2001/5-MAS, ALINORM 01/23