

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

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

A. DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Amendments to the Procedural Manual

The Commission agreed to add a new sub-section on *General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis Using the Criteria Approach* and to amend the section on "Normal Practice" to reflect the criteria approach in the *Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees*, as proposed by the Committee (ALINORM 01/41, paras. 89-91).

The Commission also considered the proposal for a new section on *Guidelines and Working Instructions to Aid the Implementation of the Criteria Approach* and agreed that the revised text should be referred back to the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for further consideration. This question will be considered under **Agenda Item 4**.

Harmonized IUPAC Guidelines for the Use of Recovery Information in Analytical Measurement

The Commission adopted the IUPAC guidelines by reference for the purposes of Codex.

General Codex Methods for Contaminants

The Commission adopted the General Codex Methods for Contaminants as proposed by CCMAS.

General Codex Methods for the Detection of Irradiated Foods

The Delegation of Hungary recalled that the Committee had considered five methods proposed by the EC in relation to the provisions of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods concerning irradiated foods. The Committee noted the written comments of the Chair of ICGFI expressing concern at the procedure followed for the endorsement of these methods, the lack of international validation and the potential barriers to trade that would result for developing countries. The Secretariat confirmed that under its Terms of Reference, the Committee could consider general methods of analysis without referring them to other Codex committees and recalled that the adoption of these methods in Codex had been supported by the Representative of FAO/IAEA in the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

The Delegation of Brazil expressed its concern that the methods proposed would not be easily applicable in developing countries and might therefore create problems in trade. The Observer from the EC pointed out that the five CEN methods had been validated at the international level, as appeared from the comprehensive bibliography provided in CAC/LIM 7. The Commission also noted that the FAO/IAEA Joint Division on Nuclear Techniques in Agriculture had participated in the initial development of these methods.

The Commission adopted the five methods proposed as general Codex methods and encouraged the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to give further consideration to validated methods that would be suitable for use in developing countries (ALINORM 01/41, paras. 197-200).

This question will be considered further under **Agenda item 6**.

Approval of New Work

The 49th (Extraordinary) Session of the Executive Committee approved as new work the elaboration of the *Proposed Draft Guidelines for Evaluating Acceptable Methods of Analysis* and *Proposed Draft Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty*, that will be discussed respectively under **Agenda Items 4 and 5**.

B. GENERAL DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007

The Commission discussed and finally adopted the draft Strategic Framework, including the Strategic Vision Statement. It agreed that the draft Medium-Term Plan should be revised by the Secretariat in the light of the Strategic Framework, the Commission's discussion and the written comments received and should incorporate the elements of the Chairperson's Action Plan agreed to by the Commission. The revised draft Medium-Term Plan would then be circulated for the inputs of Codex Coordinating Committees, other Codex Committees, member governments and international organizations, further consideration by the 50th and 51st Sessions of the Executive Committee and finalization at the 26th (regular) Session of the Commission.

C. MATTERS REFERRED BY OTHER COMMITTEES

1. Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants

The 33rd Session of the CCFAC (2001) agreed to request information on all available analytical methods for dioxins and dioxin like PCBs in food and feedingstuffs as well as sampling plans when recommending methods of analysis for the determination of food additives and contaminants in foods (ALINORM 01/12A, paras. 176 and 194).

The 34th Session noted that the next CCMAS would consider a paper in which information on methodologies for the determination of these compounds was being compiled. In view of this, the Committee agreed that comments should be submitted directly to the CCMAS (ALINORM 03/12, para. 173).

2. Committee on Pesticide Residues

The 34th Session of the Committee agreed to advance the Proposed Draft Amendments to the Introductory Section of the Recommended Methods of Analysis for Pesticide Residues to Steps 5/8 of the Procedure and the Proposed Draft Amendments to the Guidelines on Good Laboratory Practice in Pesticide Residue Analysis to Step 5 (ALINORM 01/24, paras 161-163, Appendices V and VI).

Proposed amendments related to the use of single laboratory method validation in the analysis of pesticide residues are intended to ensure harmonization and coordination between Codex Committees and to establish a bridge between method validation and ongoing quality control (method verification) in the pesticide residue analysis.

Matters related to single-laboratory validation will be considered under **Agenda item 8**.

3. Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

The 13th Session of the Committee considered a discussion paper on the criteria for the selection of methods of analysis contained in the *Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drugs in Foods* (CAC/GL 16-1993). The Committee agreed that the paper should be revised for further consideration by the next session (ALINORM 03/31, para. 89-91).

4. Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology

The Third Session of the Task Force agreed on a list of methods for the detection and identification of foods derived from biotechnology and forwarded it to CCMAS for consideration (ALINORM 03/34, paras. 91-95). This question will be considered under **Agenda Item 7**.