

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
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ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 6

CX/MAS 05/26/8-Add.1

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Twenty-sixth Session

Budapest, Hungary, 4 – 8 April 2005

### THE USE OF ANALYTICAL RESULTS: SAMPLING PLANS, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS, THE MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY, RECOVERY FACTORS AND PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS

#### COMMENTS OF COMMODITY COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

The last session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling agreed to seek the advice of commodity committees on the document on the *Use of Analytical Results: Sampling Plans, Relationship Between the Analytical Results, the Measurement Uncertainty, Recovery Factors and Provisions in Codex Standards* (ALINORM 04/27/23, para. 135, Appendix VII). The comments of the relevant Committees and the Task Force that have met since the last session of the CCMAS are presented below.

#### 1. Committee on Fats and Oils (19<sup>th</sup> Session)

The Committee recalled that the CCMAS had forwarded the above document for comments to commodity committees, and agreed with the proposal of the Working Group to forward the following comments to the CCMAS:

- The intent of the document was appreciated. However the fact that it is addressed to Codex Committees should be further clarified to ensure that the link between the specification in Codex Standards and the (methods of analysis and sampling) procedures used to estimate the specification was fully appreciated. The rationale behind the document should be expanded, possibly by incorporating additional information/comment from documents which have already been prepared by CCMAS into the document.
- It is unclear as to where the document will, if approved, be published within the Codex System and this should be clarified. If it is in the Procedural Manual then the most appropriate place for the additional information, examples etc to be published must also be identified.
- When contaminants are to be determined the recovery statement may be accepted as written.
- There should be additional clarification with respect to the issue of significant figures, and examples should be given as additional information.

1) The Secretariat informed the Committee that the document under consideration in CCMAS (Annex of CX/FO 05/19/2-Add.1) was intended to be included in the Procedural Manual and that the earlier version of the document, as considered by the last session of the Committee, was available as CX/MAS 02/13 and could provide useful references (ALINORM 05/28/17, paras. 22-23).

## **2. Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (27<sup>th</sup> Session)**

The Committee agreed to report to the CCMAS the following (ALINORM 05/28/18, para. 9-10):

- The proposed guidance document outlines important issues and the CCFFP supports the principles while noting that interpretation will need to be appropriate to each standard considered.
- With respect to sampling plans, this proposed guidance document should clarify how the Codex '*General Guidelines on Sampling*' document: Section 2.1.2 – General (ALINORM 04/27/23, Appendix III) should be referenced in order to ensure coherence and consistency. The Codex '*General Guidelines on Sampling*' document, Section 2.1.2 – General contains additional important guidance and provides more detailed information regarding a sampling plan in a draft Codex standard. The co-existence of this guidance document and the "*General Guidelines on Sampling*" document, without appropriate linkage, could potentially lead to confusion on the application of provisions regarding sampling plans.
- Regarding the section on recovery, for sensory analysis of fish and fishery products and for the analysis of container integrity in the case of canned fish and fishery products, they would require other performance criteria. The proposed guidance document is clearly applicable to classical chemical and microbiological analysis.
- This proposed guidance document needs more complete descriptions and definitions of terms so that it could be useful and understood by a broader audience. For example, the interpretation of "recovery" could be different for a chemist or microbiologist.
- Many of the aspects apparently being considered regarding method performance would have been criteria used for the original method validation. These would not need to be incorporated into the standards.
- With respect to statements under "Issues Involved", regarding choices of "*every item must comply*" versus "*average of a lot*", Codex Fish standards typically imply every unit must comply for food safety hazards. Whereas for non-health and safety defectives, the standards typically use "lot average". Consideration should be given to allow flexibility as appropriate for the attributes being tested and how the results are to be applied to lot acceptance.
- CCFFP questions whether there is an expectation to apply this guidance retroactively to adopted standards.

## **3. Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (22<sup>nd</sup> Session)**

With regard to the request of the CCMAS to provide comments on the *Use of Analytical Results: Sampling Plans, Relationship between the Analytical Results, the Measurement of Uncertainty, Recovery Factors, and Provisions in Codex Standards*, the Committee indicated that it did not have enough time to look into this matter but agreed that the CCMAS should continue its work to provide guidance for Commodity Committees in this area (ALINORM 05/28/27, para. 103).

## **4. Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices (4<sup>th</sup> Session)**

The Task Force recalled that it already replied to the CCMAS on this matter at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session (ALINORM 03/39A, paras 65-68). The Task Force concluded that it had no new elaborations on this matter. It noted that much better expertise on this issue rested with the CCMAS and was of the view that the Committee could organize a specialized Working Group dealing with commodities within the CCMAS in order to address the issue on the use of analytical results from the general point of view, including the possibility of developing guidance to governments e.g. sampling plans for general fields such as composition or quality, nutrition, pesticide residues, etc. (ALINORM 05/28/39, para. 108)