

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

CX/MAS 05/26/2

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Twenty-sixth Session

Budapest, Hungary, 4 – 8 April 2005

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

A. DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE¹

Amendments to the Procedural Manual

General Criteria for the Selection of Single Laboratory Validated Methods of Analysis Principle

Amendments to the Analytical terminology for Codex Use

The Commission adopted the texts as proposed by the Committee on General Principles (endorsement of proposals from CCMAS). These amendments have been included in the 14th Edition of the Procedural Manual.

Draft General Guidelines on Sampling

The Commission adopted the Draft General Guidelines as proposed and agreed that the editorial comments from Brazil should be included in the final version. The Commission agreed that the General Guidelines replaced the current Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods (AQL 6.5) (CODEX STAN 233-1969).

The CCMAS is invited to consider recommending the replacement of the reference to CODEX STAN 233-1969 in Codex Standards and standards under elaboration with a reference to the General Guidelines on Sampling (CAC/GL 50-2004).

Draft Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty

The Commission agreed to insert a reference to validated methods in the Introduction, as an alternative to collaboratively tested methods that were not always available, as proposed by the Delegation of Brazil.

The Delegation of New Zealand, while not objecting to the adoption of the Draft Guidelines, expressed the view that it was not clear how the information on measurement uncertainty would be used, and that barriers to trade might result from misuse or misunderstanding. The Delegation referred to the ongoing discussion in the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) on the use of analytical results, and pointed out that matters relating to measurement uncertainty should be considered in relation with other relevant Codex texts. This position was supported by other delegations.

The Commission adopted the Draft Guidelines with the above amendment. The Commission noted that matters related to measurement uncertainty and the use of analytical results required further consideration in the CCMAS and that the Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty might be reviewed as a result of further work in this area.

¹ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 60-65

Methods of Analysis

The Commission adopted the methods of analysis for additives and contaminants as proposed, and noted that the adoption of the method for the determination of saccharin in beverages would be considered when provisions for saccharin in beverages had been finalized.

The Commission also adopted the methods of analysis for inclusion in the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils and in the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (amendment to the current methods).

Proposed Draft Guidelines for Evaluating Acceptable Methods of Analysis

The Commission adopted the Proposed Draft Amendment at Step 5 and noted that the comments from Brazil could be addressed at Step 7 by the Committee. This question will be considered under **Agenda Item 3a**.

B. MATTERS REFERRED BY OTHER COMMITTEES

Matters related to endorsement of methods of analysis, and the replies to the questions of CCMAS on specific methods are presented under **Agenda Item 5a** in CX/MAS 05/28/7 Endorsement of Methods of Analysis Provisions in Codex Standards.

The replies to the questions of CCMAS concerning the *Use of Analytical Results: Sampling Plans, Relationship Between the Analytical Results, the Measurement Uncertainty, Recovery Factors and Provisions in Codex Standards* will be considered under **Agenda Item 6** (CX/MAS 05/27/23-Add.1).

1. Committee on Fats and Oils (19th Session)

Year of Publication

1) The Committee recalled that its last session and the 25th Session of CCMAS had discussed the need for the reference to the year of publication in ISO and other methods. The Committee encouraged CCMAS to develop a general policy with respect to the year of publication of Standard Methods. The Committee noted that in application of ISO/IEC 17025:1999, analysts were required to use the latest version of methods of analysis and agreed that, given the way the International Organisations currently operated, it was no longer necessary to incorporate the year of publication of methods of analysis in Codex Standards.

2. Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices (4th Session)

Applicability of Methods for Food Additives that are Intrinsic Constituents of Fruit Juices and Nectars

The Task Force noted the request of the CCMAS to clarify the applicability of the methods of analysis for food additives that are also intrinsic constituents of fruit juices and nectars. The Task Force agreed that the methods for the organic acid additives endorsed by CCMAS were strictly to determine total values of the additive in the fruit juice. One or more other methods might need to be used to determine if the constituent such as an organic acid had been added or if it was solely the naturally present constituent. These additives might be determined by methods normally used to determine the authenticity of the juice such as isotopic methods or enzymatic methods. For example, organic acids added to a fruit juice might be determined by the presence of a specific enantiomer of the organic acid at a level different than the racemic mixture. Due to analytical limitations such as differences in detection limits or precision of the different methods it might not be possible to determine very low levels of the commercially added additive (ALINORM 05/28/39, para. 57).