

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

CX/MAS 06/27/2-Add.1

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Twenty-seventh Session

Budapest, Hungary, 15-19 May 2006

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

1. COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Use of Analytical Results: Sampling Plans, Relationship between the Analytical Results, the Measurement Uncertainty, Recovery Factors and Provisions in Codex Standards

The Delegation of Thailand, referring to its written comments, expressed its concern with the difficulties related to the establishment of sampling plans, the lack of guidance concerning the allowance for measurement uncertainty and the provisions concerning recovery as related to Codex commodity standards and did not agree to the endorsement of these recommendations. The Delegation expressed the view that CCMAS should provide clear guidelines on the allowance for measurement uncertainty to facilitate its consistent application throughout Codex.

The Committee noted that Commodity Committees had no obligation to establish sampling plans or to specify measurement uncertainty or recovery factors, and that the recommendations were intended to provide guidance to Committees to address these issues when required.

The Delegation of New Zealand, as host country for the Committee on Milk and Milk Products, referred to the difficulties related to the establishment of sampling plans for milk products.

The Committee agreed to endorse the recommendations presented in Annex 3 of the working document for adoption by the Commission and inclusion in the Procedural Manual. The Committee also recommended that the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling consider the issues related to the application of General Guidelines on Sampling and the allowance for measurement uncertainty (ALINORM 06/29/33, paras. 40-44 and Appendix IV).

Sampling Procedures

The Committee on General Principles recalled that the 28th Session of the Commission had considered a proposal to revise the *Principles for the Establishment or Selection of Sampling Procedures* in the Procedural Manual, following the adoption of the General Guidelines on Sampling, and had agreed to refer this matter to the Committee on General Principles. The Committee agreed that due to the nature of the subject it would be preferable for CCMAS to consider this issue as a first stage, and agreed to ask the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling to review and if possible update the above Principles, with the understanding that any proposed amendment would be submitted to the CCGP for endorsement (ALINORM 06/29/33, para. 30).

2. COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Draft Guidelines on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Results

The Committee on Pesticide Residues finalized the Draft Guidelines on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Results, intended for incorporation into the Guidelines on Good Laboratory Practice in Residue Analysis (CAC/GL 40-1993, Rev.1-2003) in order to ensure that the concept of measurement uncertainty was harmonized in the framework of Codex.

The Committee recalled that the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had developed Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty adopted by the Commission in 2004 and agreed that the Draft Guidelines under consideration were not in conflict with the adopted Guidelines. The Committee noted that the terms of reference of CCMAS excluded methods of analysis for pesticide residues, therefore the Draft Guidelines could only be sent to CCMAS for information and consideration in relation to the general issue of measurement uncertainty, which was kept under regular review.

The Committee also agreed that a circular letter would be issued requesting information from governments on application practices currently in use at the national or regional level on measurement uncertainty in reporting test results and its application in relation to the risk management of pesticide residues in food (ALINORM 06/29/24, paras. 173-178 and Appendix IV).