

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

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 COMMITTEES¹

1. DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

No documents were forwarded to the Commission for adoption by the last session of the CCMAS. The proposed amendments to the Procedural Manual require endorsement by the Committee on General Principles and will therefore be considered by the 23rd Session of the CCGP, to be held from 10-14 April 2006, and by the 29th Session of the Commission.

The Commission took the following decisions that directly affect the work of the Committee.

Review of the Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces

While agreeing to retain the current terms of reference for the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, the Commission agreed with the view of the Executive Committee that the terms of reference of the Committee on Food Hygiene should clearly state that it could address methods related to microbiological specifications, currently referred to in a footnote in the Procedural Manual (ALINORM 05/28/41, para. 147-148)

Year of Publication

The Commission agreed with the proposal of the Committee to include a footnote to the Recommended Methods of Analysis (CAC/STAN 234) to the effect that "the most updated version of the method should be used, in application of ISO/IEC 17025: 1999", as analysts are required to use the most updated version of methods of analysis in application of ISO/IEC 17025:1999, referred to in the Guidelines for the Assessment of the Competence of Testing Laboratories Involved in the Import and Export Control of Foods (CAC/GL 27).

Sampling Procedures

The Delegation of Japan pointed out that the Principles for the Establishment or Selection of Codex Sampling Procedures in the Procedural Manual referred to the Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods (CAC/STAN 233), that had been superseded by the *General Guidelines on Sampling* adopted in 2004. The Delegation therefore proposed that the Committee on General Principles and the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling consider the review and possible update of the entire section to take into account the adoption of the new Guidelines. The Commission agreed that this matter should be considered by the next session of the Committee on General Principles (ALINORM 05/28/41, para. 190). Further update will be provided following the 23rd Session of the CCGP.

¹ Any additional matters arising from the Codex Committees to be held in March and April 2006 will be presented to the Committee as required.

Draft General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars

Sections 3.4 and 9 – Methods of Analysis

The Commission approved the proposal of the Committee to include an additional paragraph in Section 3.4 – Verification of Composition, Quality and Authenticity to allow the endorsement of methods of analysis for composition, quality and authenticity listed in Section 9.

The verification of a sample's authenticity / quality can be assessed by comparison of data for the sample, generated using appropriate methods included in the standard, with that produced for fruit of the same type and from the same region, allowing for natural variations, seasonal changes and for variations occurring due to processing.

These methods would not be part of the adopted Standard at this stage but would subsequently be included in the Standard by the Commission after the endorsement by the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling. (ALINORM 05/28/41, para. 61).

The methods of analysis for fruit juices and nectars will be considered under **Agenda Item 5**.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

Gluten-Free Foods

The Committee recalled the decision of the 49th Session of the Executive Committee that the draft revised Standard for Gluten-Free Foods be held until such time as the scientific basis for the establishment of gluten levels and the method of determination were clarified.

The Committee noted that the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had endorsed temporarily the R5 ELISA method for the determination of gluten as a Type I method. The Observer from WGPAT informed the Committee that progress has been made on the analytical issue and proposed to ask the CCMAS to convert the R5 ELISA method from Type I temporarily endorsed to the endorsed status. The Observer from AO ECS supported this proposal.

Due to time constraints the Committee was unable to discuss the Draft Revised Standard for Gluten-Free Food and agreed to return the latest version to Step 6 for comments and consideration at the next session (ALINORM 06/29/26, paras 8-12 and 160).

The method for the determination of gluten will be considered under **Agenda Item 5**.