codex alimentarius commission E

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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Agenda Item 6

CX/MMP 08/8/8 Add.1
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(Original language only)

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Eighth Session

Queenstown, New Zealand, 4-8 February 2008

DISCUSSION PAPER ON SAMPLING PLANS FOR MILK PRODUCTS IN THE PRESENCE OF SIGNIFICANT MEASUREMENT ERROR

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Prepared by New Zealand

Background

The discussion paper on sampling plans for milk products in the presence of significant measurement error (CX/MMP 08/8/8) recommends that a guideline should be drafted, covering the points in paragraphs 28, 30 and 31 of the report. In the event that CCMMP agrees with this recommendation, new work will need to be approved by the Executive Committee on the basis of a project proposal. New Zealand has therefore drafted a proposal for this purpose, in the Annex.

Annex

DRAFT

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Proposal for New Work – Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products

Guidelines ON ASSESSMENT OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS FOR CONFORMITY TO COMPOSITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. The purposes and scope of the proposed standard

The objective of the project is to develop *Guidelines on Assessment of Milk and Milk Products for Conformity to Compositional Specifications* which would apply specifically to assessment of milk and milk products for conformity to standards such as the Codex standards for milk products.

2. Relevance and timeliness

Codex methods of sampling are designed to ensure that fair and valid sampling procedures are used when food is being tested for compliance with a particular Codex commodity standard[1]. Codex Commodity Committees should indicate, among other things, the basis on which compliance to criteria in commodity standards is determined, and any differentiation in the relative importance of criteria in the standards[2].

Codex standards for milk products include specifications for their composition and associated test methods, but do not include the conformity assessment procedures as set out in the Procedural Manual.

Sampling plans recommended in the *General Guidelines on Sampling*[3], and the recommended methods of sampling milk products[4], are appropriate in the small minority of cases in which measurement error is not significant. However no guidance is available for conformity assessment in the presence of significant measurement error, which is the case for the great majority of test methods for milk and milk products. The proposed guidelines will fill this gap.

3. The main aspects to be covered

The proposed guidelines will recommend procedures for assessing products for conformity to the specifications in the Codex standards for milk and milk products. This will include recommended procedures that would apply in situations where measurement error is significant.

The guidance will also include recommendations on:

- the stringency of assessments relative to the importance of the criteria in the standards for milk products,
- recognition of conformance history, and
- the implications of using weak sampling plans.

4. An assessment against the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities

The proposal is consistent with the criteria as follows:

General criterion

<u>Consumer protection from the point of view of health, food safety, ensuring fair practices in the food trade and taking into account the identified needs of developing countries</u>: This work could enhance consumer protection by improving decisions on conformance to standards for milk and milk products.

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1 Procedural Manual, page 84 (English version). 16th edition, 2006.

2 Procedural Manual, page 85 (English version). 16th edition, 2006.

3 CAC/GL 50-2004

4 Inspection by attributes (IDF 113 | ISO 5538:2004); Inspection by variables (IDF Standard 136A:1992 | ISO 8197:1988). Both listed in Codex Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling, Codex Stan 234-1999.

Criteria applicable to commodities

(b) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade: The guidance should reduce potential impediments to trade caused by different assessment procedures used by different national authorities.

(d) Amenability of the commodity to standardisation: This work will complement the Codex standards for milk products by providing procedures for assessing the products for conformity.

(e) Coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards: The work will take into account the *General Guidelines on Sampling*, which provide sampling plans for the small minority of situations where measurement error is not significant, and the proposals under preparation in CCMAS for guidance on measurement uncertainty and uncertainty of sampling[5].

(f) Number of commodities which would need separate standards indicating whether raw, semi-processed or processed: The proposed guidelines will cover any milk and milk products for which compostional specifications exist.

(g) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field and/or suggested by the relevant international intergovernmental body(ies): No international guidance exists in the key area that the proposed guidelines will address, that is, procedures for assessing products in the presence of significant measurement error.

5. Relevance to Codex strategic objectives

This proposal is consistent with:

Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks (Activity 1.2: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality and Activity 1.4: Review and develop Codex standards for food inspection and certification and methods of sampling and analysis). This work is consistent with the strategy of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to develop standards for foods that are not overly prescriptive and are not more trade restrictive than necessary.

6. Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents

This new work is proposed to embody the procedures for assessing milk and milk products for conformity to the relevant Codex compositional standards.

The proposed guidelines will follow the *Principles for the Establishment or Selection of Codex Sampling Procedures*[6] and will refer, when appropriate, to sampling plans from the *General Guidelines for Sampling* and to *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling*[7].

The proposed guidelines will also take account of the *Proposed Draft Codex Guidelines for the Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Conformity to Quality Standards*, currently under development by the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

7. Identification of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice

None required.

8. Identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies

The International Dairy Federation (IDF) should be involved in the preparation of the draft guidelines, as set out in the Codex procedures for elaboration of standards.

9. The proposed time-line for completion the new work

- Consideration of the draft proposal at Step 4 by CCMMP 9.
- Consideration of the proposal at Step 7 by CCMMP 10.
- Adoption of the guidelines by the CAC at Step 8: July 2013 (on the condition that the interval between CCMMP sessions is not modified).

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5 ALINORM 07/30/23, paragraphs 10 and 135.

6 Procedural Manual, page 84 (English version). 16th edition, 2006.

7 Codex Stan 234-1999