

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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Agenda Item 10

CX/PR 99/14
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Thirty-first Session

The Hague, The Netherlands, 12 - 17 April 1999

REGULATORY PRACTICES TO FACILITATE THE USE OF CODEX MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS FOR PESTICIDES

1. At its Twenty-ninth Session, the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) discussed the relevance of the document, "Recommended National Regulatory Practices to Facilitate Acceptance and Use of Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues in Foods" (CAC/PR 9-1985). Delegations stressed the usefulness of the document in the work of the CCPR, both for information and transparency. The CCPR unanimously supported an updating of the document¹, which was approved as new work by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) at its 22nd Session².

2. The CCPR at its 30th Session considered CX/PR 98/13 which was prepared by the International Toxicology Information Center (ITIC) and presented by Mr Wessel of the ITIC. It was based on the results of a 1980 questionnaire but reflected the many advances made by the JMPR in recent years, and included a number of recommendations on a range of JMPR assessment practices and policies. Information on newer CCPR-related activities (e.g., Periodic Review, and international dietary intake, WTO SPS Agreement³) had been added and the document was intended to replace CAC/PR 9-1985.

3. While unanimously pointing out the usefulness of the document, several delegations suggested that some improvements and expansions could be made in paragraphs 20, 30⁴, and 59(a) and (b). Recognizing the importance of Codex texts under the SPS Agreement, the Committee agreed to keep the document as a working paper and to request the ITIC, together with the Codex Secretariat, to prepare a revised paper for consideration at its next Session. All interested countries and international organizations were invited to send their inputs to Mr Wessel.⁵

4. To date comments have been provided to ITIC only by the Netherlands and Consumers International.

5. The Codex Committee on General Principles has been considering the following issues which may, upon conclusion, have certain implications to the content of the document of concern:

- Risk analysis: Definitions related to risk management; and Working principles for risk analysis;
- Review of the General Principles of Codex: Revision of acceptance procedure;
- Review of the Statements of Principle on the Role of Science and the Extent to Which Other Factors Should Be Taken into Account.

¹ ALINORM 97/24A, para. 102.

² ALINORM 97/37, Appendix IV.

³ Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

⁴ Paragraph on GAP.

⁵ ALINORM 99/24, paras 113-115.

The CCGP at its Thirteenth Session⁶ could not reach conclusions on these issues. However, it is expected that the forthcoming Fourteenth Session of the CCGP⁷ would recommend certain texts to the CAC for consideration at its 23rd Session scheduled for 28 June-3 July 1999. Depending on the contents of these texts, it may be necessary for the CCPR to revise some parts of the document on regulatory practices to facilitate the use of Codex maximum residue limits for pesticides.

6. Pending additional comments from Member governments on CX/PR 98/13 and developments by the CCGP in those issues relevant to the work of the CCPR, it has been decided that the revision of the document should be deferred by at least one year. In order to assist the revision by the ITIC, Member governments and international organizations are once again invited to send their comments on CX/PR 98/13 to Mr Wessel⁸.

⁶ ALINORM 99/33.

⁷ Scheduled to be held from 19-23 April 1999 in Paris, France.

⁸ For address and contact numbers, refer to Appendix I of ALINORM 99/24.