

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 7(c)

CX/PR 02/9
April 2002

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Thirty-fourth session

The Hague, The Netherlands, 13-18 May 2002

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE REVISION OF THE LIST OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES

(prepared by The Netherlands)

1. The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues has discussed the criteria for the selection of recommended methods of analysis on several occasions. The Committee at its 33th session agreed to circulate both the Proposed Draft Amendment to the Introduction of the Recommended Methods of Analysis for Pesticide Residues¹ and the Proposed Draft Amendments to the Guidelines on Good Laboratory Practice in Pesticide Residue Analysis² at Step 3 of the Codex Procedure.
2. The *Introduction* states the general requirements for methods to be adopted and currently received general support by Member Governments. The Committee at its 33th session also agreed that an updated list of Recommended Methods would be prepared based on the *Introduction* and the *Guidelines*. Furthermore the list should reflect the current state-of-the-art in pesticide residue analysis and that it should contain methods that are presently used by laboratories.
3. From the responses to the Codex Circular Letter CL 1998/30-PR³ it became clear that the majority of the laboratories used modifications of methods published in either one of the following manuals: Official Methods of AOAC INTERNATIONAL; Pesticide Analytical Manual, Food and Drug Administration, USA; Manual of Pesticide Residue Analysis, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German or English edition); or Analytical Methods for Residues of Pesticides Inspectorate for Health Protection of the Netherlands. The majority of the responses referred to pesticides amenable to gas chromatography or the analysis of carbamates by liquid chromatography with fluorescence detection. These methods covered approximately 75% of the compounds listed in the present List. The Committee could consider whether older references for these compounds can be deleted. For compounds that cannot be included in the multi-residue methods indicated above, the Committee might wish to seek additional information targeted on commonly applied methods for this more limited set of compounds.

¹ ALINORM 24A, Appendix VIII, CL 2001/29-PR.

² ALINORM 24A, Appendix VII.

³ CX/PR 99/10.

4. The performance criteria can be extracted from the *Guidelines*, but an adequate data format still needs to be developed to accommodate both the peer review of proposed methods as well as the dissemination of the information to the Codex community. The Committee should consider developing a minimum data-set required for the proper assessment of the suitability of candidate methods for the list.
5. Detailed descriptions of the methods together with the results of tests are not intended to be published as such through the official Codex channels but in a data-base that would be accessible through a data-base provided by the FAO/IAEA Training and Reference Centre for Food and Pesticide Control (TRC). This data-base will be linked to the Home Page of the TRC. Due to copy-right issues it will not be possible to give the full description of all methods, but summary information and details for acquiring the full texts should be found there.
6. As a starting point for a new list the Committee could consider the methods that were indicated in CX/PR 99/10 (see also para 3). More detailed information on their performance could be sought by the Codex Circular Letter, furthermore information could be requested on multi-residue methods not listed in the existing list. As and when the criteria for the selection of methods are set in the Committee it would be recommendable to advance these methods through the accelerated Codex Procedure. This would render the list to truly represent current practices for the analysis of pesticide residues.
7. For the pesticides that are not covered by multi-residue methods (approximately 50) the Committee could consider deleting references older than 10 years. The Committee might wish to seek an information on the performance of the remaining methods and also request information on new methods for the open positions.