

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 3

CX/PR 09/41/2-Add.1
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Forty-first Session

Beijing, China, 19 - 25 April 2009

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 31ST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND THE 61ST SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MATTERS FOR ACTION:

Amendments to the Standard on Natural Mineral Waters (ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 106-108)

1. The Commission noted the proposal of Kenya to initiate new work on the completion of the Section on methods of analysis in the Codex Standard on Natural Mineral Waters (CODEX STAN 108-1981) in view of the fact that, in the standard, there was no indication of specific methods of analysis and sampling procedures available for a number of chemical substances mentioned in Sections 3.2.17 (Surface active agents), 3.2.18 (Pesticides and PCBs), 3.2.19 (Mineral oil) and 3.2.20 (Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons), and the proposal to revise the Section on Hygiene to make it easier to use and consistent with the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters (CAC/RCP 33-1985). The Chair of the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters also noted that the proposal from Kenya had been presented orally at the last session of the Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, however it had not been examined by the Committee as it fell outside the mandate given to the Committee by the 30th Session of the Commission. The Commission further noted that the project document had been considered at the last session of the Executive Committee and, after some discussion, agreed to refer the issue on the methods of analysis raised in Project Document 22 to the Committees on Contaminants in Foods, on **Pesticide Residues** and on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for review in their respective areas of competence as a matter of priority, especially whether further work was warranted and desirable.
2. The Commission also agreed to request the Committee on Food Hygiene to consider whether it was possible to give a higher priority to the revision of the Recommended International Code of Hygienic Practice for Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters.
3. The Commission also **requested** the Committees concerned, as mentioned above, to inform the Executive Committee and the Commission about their findings in order to allow the Commission to take an informed decision on this matter at its next session.
4. The Committee is therefore **requested** to inform the Executive Committee and the Commission of its consideration of this matter. The above mentioned Project Document 22 is attached for easier reference.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

PROJECT DOCUMENT NO. 22: PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS ON CODEX STANDARD FOR NATURAL MINERAL WATERS (CODEX STAN 109-1981, REV.1-1997) (Prepared by Kenya)**1. Purpose and Scope of the Standard**

The purpose of the amendment is to provide essential guidance relating to food safety essential quality, hygiene, and labelling, for the purpose of protecting the health of the consumer and ensuring fair practices in food trade.

This Standard applies to all packaged natural mineral waters offered for sale as food. It does not apply to natural Mineral waters sold or used for other purposes.

2. Relevance and Timeliness

The Consumption and global trade in packaged natural mineral water has been steadily increasing over the years. This raises concerns over its safety as food. There is therefore an urgent need to identify methods of analysis and sampling, and set maximum limits for the substances referred to in Clause 3.2.17 to 3.2.20 and microbiological maximum limits indicated in Clause 4.4

3. Main Aspects to be amended

During the 8th session of Codex Committee on Natural Mineral waters held in Lugano, Switzerland on 11th - 15th February, 2008, the Delegation of Kenya, referring to Footnotes 3 and 4 of the current Standard, drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that in the Standard there was no indication of specific methods of analysis and sampling available for surface active agents, pesticides and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), mineral oil and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons and this created some problems in practical application of the Standard. The Delegation also proposed to review the section on hygiene as in their view it was not easy to interpret and apply the microbiological specifications as they stand in the Standard.

4. An Assessment against the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*

- a) Consumer protection from the point of view of health and fraudulent trade practices. Quality of the Natural Mineral water meets consumer needs and minimum requirements on food safety.
- b) International and regional Market for packaged Natural Mineral waters has tremendously increased in the recent past.
- c) The Standard for Natural Mineral water has successfully been drafted. Available ISO methods of analysis and sampling such as,

ISO 2456:1986 for surface active agents, GLC for Pesticides,

HPLC for PCBs and GC-MS for mineral oil can be adopted to make the Standard implementable for substances identified in clauses 3.2.17 to 3.2.20.

5. Relevance to Codex Strategic Objectives

This amendment proposal is consistent with the Codex Commission strategic Plan 2008-2013 goal 1; Promoting sound regulatory frameworks, page 3.

6. Information on the Relation between the Proposal and other Existing Codex Documents.

The need for this amendment was noted, by the Kenya Delegation during the 8th session of Codex meeting on Natural Mineral waters held in Lugano, Switzerland, Feb 11th – 15th 2008. However, the members felt that the scope of the meeting was limited to the health related substances on Clauses 3.2.1-3.2.16 which had been approved by the Commission in 2007 July, CAC meeting. Therefore the Secretariat of the Codex Committee of Natural Mineral water informed the members who would like to prepare a project document following process and format as described in the Codex procedure Manual 17th Edition Page 21 is free to do so before end of March, 2008.

7. Identification of any Requirements for and Availability of Expert Scientific Advice

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and sampling (CCMAS) and Joint Experts on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA)

8. Identification of any Need for Technical Input to the Standard from External Bodies so that this can be planned for

The technical input of Joint Experts on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) to simplify the tables under Clause 4.4 to make them easy for the regulatory authorities to enforce and the exploiters to implement will be needed. An exhaustive list of harmful Microorganisms to be tested in the Natural Mineral water should be developed. Generally, Clause 4.4 should be re-structured and the tables properly labelled and titled to make the information contained there-in meaningful.

9. The Proposed Timeline for Completion of the Amendment Including the Start Date, and Date for Adoption by the Commission

Start date	2008 (June-July)
Proposed date for amendment at step 5/8	2009
Proposed date for adoption by the commission	2009 (June-July)