

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 3

**CX/PR 09/41/2
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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 INFORMATION:

1. The 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the 61st Sessions of the Executive Committee had considered different issues that are relevant to the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. For details of consideration see ALINORM 08/31/REP and ALINORM 08/31/3A which are available from:

<http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/archives.jsp?year=08>

AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 17-18)

Amendments to the "Relations between Commodity Committees and General Subject Committees"

2. The Commission considered the proposed amendments to the "Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees" and endorsed the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee to adopt the proposed amendments with the following changes:

- Include a reference to "CODEX STAN 193-1995" to the first paragraph of the Section on Contaminants;
- Replace the term "revisions" with "amendments" in the same section for consistent use of those terms that were defined in the Procedural Manual; and
- Delete the proposed inclusion of a reference to "contaminants" in the section on methods of analysis of pesticide residues in food so that this section cover the relations between the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, on one hand, and the Committees on Pesticide Residues and on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods on the other.

3. The amendments to the "Relations between Commodity Committees and General Committees" adopted the Commission are presented in Appendix IV to ALINORM 08/31/REP.

DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 8 OF THE PROCEDURE (ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 21-22)

4. The Commission adopted the Draft Standards and Related Texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies at Step 8 (including those submitted at Step 5 with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7), as well as other standards and related texts submitted for adoption, as presented in Appendix VII to ALINORM 08/31/REP.

Draft and Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides (ALINORM 08/31/REP, para 53)

5. The Commission adopted the MRLs as proposed in Appendices II and III to ALINORM 08/31/24 with the addition of the note "except maize" for the MRL for fenitrothion (037) for cereal grains, which had inadvertently been omitted from the report of the Committee, and noted the reservation of the European Community and Norway on MRLs for captan (007) for table grapes, dried grapes, pome fruits and peaches, fenitrothion (037) for apples, rice and wheat, phosmet (103) for apricots, nectarines, pears and apples, and cyfluthrin/beta-cyfluthrin (157) for citrus fruit and cauliflower, as presented in CAC/31 LIM/5.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT STEP 5 OF THE PROCEDURE (ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 65-66)

6. The Commission adopted at Step 5 the Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies, as presented in Appendix VIII to ALINORM 08/31/24, and advanced them to Step 6. The Commission noted that technical comments raised during the session would be referred to the relevant Committees for their consideration. The Commission encouraged members and observers that had submitted comments in writing or orally at the session to submit these comments at Step 6 of the Procedure.

Proposed Draft Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides (ALINORM 08/31/REP, para 72)

7. The Commission adopted the draft MRLs as proposed in Appendix IV to ALINORM 08/31/24 at Step 5 and advanced them to Step 6, noting the reservations expressed by the Delegations of the European Community and Norway on the draft MRLs for triadimefon (133) for grapes, cyfluthrin/beta-cyfluthrin (157) for broccoli and head cabbage, and flusilazole (165) for pome fruits, peach, nectarine and bovine edible offal, as presented in CAC/31 LIM/6.

REVOCATION OF EXISTING CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 73-75)

8. The Commission considered the list of texts proposed for revocation from the Codex Alimentarius as presented in ALINORM 08/31/7. It agreed not to revoke the Codex MRLs for triadimenol and triadimefon on tomato and peppers, sweet, until the replacement group MRL would be adopted.

9. The Commission further agreed to revoke the Codex MRL for fenitrothion on wheat, which was proposed for revocation by the Committee on Pesticide Residues and inadvertently omitted in Appendix V of ALINORM 08/31/4.

10. The complete list of texts approved for revocation is summarized in Appendix IX to ALINORM 08/31/24.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AND FOR THE DISCONTINUATION OF WORK (ALINORM 08/31/3A, paras 95-97 and ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 92 and Appendix X)

11. During the critical review by the 61st Session of the Executive Committee, one member strongly supported the work on the revision of the Principles for Risk Analysis Applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in view of its importance and expressed the view that revocation of MRLs should be based only on scientific evidence concerning adverse effects on human health.

12. Another member supported work on the revision of the Guidelines for Estimation of Uncertainty of Results (Project Document 14) to provide guidance in the complex area of pesticide analysis. It was also noted that these Guidelines specifically addressed measurement uncertainty in pesticide analysis, while the Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (Project document 11) proposed for revision by CCMAS were of a general nature and were applicable to all food analyses, and that CCPR and CCMAS coordinated their work in order to ensure consistency in the approach to measurement uncertainty.

13. The Executive Committee recommended approval of both items as new work.

14. The 31st Session of the Commission approved the elaboration of new standards and related texts as summarized in Appendix X to ALINORM 08/31/REP.

MATTERS FOR ACTION:

AMENDMENTS TO CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (*ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 82-83*)

References to Volume 2 (Part I, 3.1.2)

15. The Commission recalled that until 2001 Codex standards and related texts had been published in a number of volumes, which had since been discontinued to save costs.

16. The Commission noted that CODEX STAN 229-1993 contained a number of references to different sections of Volume 2 dealing with pesticide residues, which were still valid because they had not been replaced with other texts and which had no separate identification number. The Commission agreed to invite the Committee on Pesticide Residues to discuss the issue at its next session.

OTHER MATTERS

EMRLs for Pesticides listed in Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

17. In 1995, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) called for global action to be taken on (POPs), which it defined as “chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment”.

18. Following this, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) and the International Programme for Chemical Safety (IPCS) prepared an assessment of the 12 chemicals. This list includes eight organo-chlorine pesticides: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene; two industrial chemicals: hexachlorbenzene (HCB) and the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) group; and two groups of industrial by-products: dioxins and furans.

19. The negotiations for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants were completed on May 23rd 2001 in Stockholm, Sweden. The Convention entered into force on May 17th, 2004 with ratification by an initial 128 parties and 151 signatories. Co-signatories agreed to outlaw nine of the twelve chemicals, limit the use of DDT to malaria control, and curtail inadvertent production of dioxins and furans. Parties to the convention have agreed to a process by which persistent toxic compounds can be reviewed and added to the convention, if they meet certain criteria for persistence and transboundary threat.

20. The Codex Alimentarius Commission had established in the past a number of EMRLs which fall under the Stockholm convention (see Annex). The Committee is invited to express its views and take a decision on the status of these EMRLs, if any.

ANNEX

CODEX EMRLS FOR THE POPS

ALDRIN AND DIELDRIN				
<i>Commodity</i>	<i>EMRL (mg/kg)</i>	<i>Symbols</i>		
Bulb vegetables	0.05			
Cereal grains	0.02			
Citrus fruits	0.05			
Eggs	0.1			
Fruiting vegetables, Cucurbits	0.1			
Leafy vegetables	0.05			
Legume vegetables	0.05			
Meat (from mammals other than marine mammals)	0.2		(fat)	
Milks	0.006		F	
Pome fruits	0.05			
Poultry meat	0.2		(fat)	
Pulses	0.05			
Root and tuber vegetables	0.1			
CHLORDANE				
Almonds	0.02			
Cotton seed oil, Crude	0.05			
Eggs	0.02			
Fruits and vegetables	0.02	(*)		
Hazelnuts	0.02			
Linseed oil, Crude	0.05			
Maize	0.02			
Meat (from mammals other than marine mammals)	0.05		(fat)	
Milks	0.002		F	
Oats	0.02			
Pecan	0.02			
Poultry meat	0.5		(fat)	
Rice, Polished	0.02			
Rye	0.02			
Sorghum	0.02			
Soya bean oil, Crude	0.05			
Soya bean oil, Refined	0.02			
Walnuts	0.02			
Wheat	0.02			

DDT				
<i>Commodity</i>	<i>EMRL (mg/kg)</i>	<i>Symbols</i>		
Carrot	0.2			
Cereal grains	0.1			
Eggs	0.1			
Meat (from mammals other than marine mammals)	5		(fat)	T
Milks	0.02		F	
Poultry meat	0.3		(fat)	

ENDRIN				
<i>Commodity</i>	<i>EMRL (mg/kg)</i>	<i>Symbols</i>		
Fruiting vegetables, Cucurbits	0.05			
Poultry meat	0.1		(fat)	

HEPTACHLOR				
<i>Commodity</i>	<i>EMRL (mg/kg)</i>	<i>Symbols</i>		
Cereal grains	0.02			
Citrus fruits	0.01			
Cotton seed	0.02			
Eggs	0.05			
Meat (from mammals other than marine mammals)	0.2		(fat)	
Milks	0.006		F	
Pineapple	0.01			
Poultry meat	0.2		(fat)	
Soya bean (immature seeds)	0.02			
Soya bean oil, Crude	0.5			
Soya bean oil, Refined	0.02			