

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 3

CX/RVDF 04/15/2
September 2004

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Fifteenth Session

Washington, D.C., 26 – 29 October 2004

MATTERS REFERRED/OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

1. GENERAL DECISIONS OF THE 26th AND 27th SESSIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

AMENDMENT TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

26th Codex Alimentarius Commission (30 June – 7 July 2003)¹

1. The Commission determined that the quorum specified in Rule IV.6 for the amendment of the Rules of Procedure had been constituted. The Commission adopted the following amendment to the Procedural Manual.

- Clarification of Rule VI.4 (Voting and Procedures)
- Amendments to the Rules of Procedure concerning the Membership of Regional Economic Integration Organizations

2. The Commission adopted the following proposals to amend other sections of the Procedural Manual.

- Amendments to the *General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis using the Criteria Approach* and the insertion of a new section addressing *Working Instructions for the Implementation of the Criteria Approach in Codex* in the “Principles for the Establishment of Methods of Analysis”, with the correction of an editorial error;
- Revision of the terms of reference of the Committee on Meat and Poultry Hygiene and also the revision of the name to read “*Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene*”;
- Measures to Facilitate Consensus for inclusion as a general decision of the Commission.

3. The amendments adopted as above have been included in the 13th Edition of the Procedural Manual.

27th Codex Alimentarius Commission (28 June – 3 July 2004)²

4. As the quorum specified in Rule V.6 of the Rules of Procedure was not constituted, the Commission was unable to adopt the following proposed amendments and agreed that their consideration should be deferred to its next session.

- Proposed Amendments concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee, the functions of the Executive Committee and matters related to budget and expenses;

¹ ALINORM 03/41, paras 15-31

² ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 9-20

- Proposed Amendments to Rules VIII.5 - Observers
5. The Commission adopted the following proposals to amend other sections of the Procedural Manual.
- Amendments to the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts;
 - Criteria for the Appointment of Chairpersons;
 - Guidelines to Host Governments of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces;
 - Guidelines on the Conduct of Meetings of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces;
 - Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces;
 - Matters related to Methods of Analysis and Sampling;
 - General Criteria for the Selection of Single Laboratory Validated Methods of Analysis Principle;
 - Amendments to the Analytical Terminology for Codex Use;
 - Definitions of Risk Analysis Terms related to Food Safety, on an interim basis, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual with the understanding that the Committee on General Principles would reconsider these definitions if required in the light of the advice of the Committee on Pesticide Residues, the Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, the Committee on Meat Hygiene, and the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems;
 - Definition of Traceability/Product Tracing (the Commission **requested** the CCFICS to present a proposal for new work on principles for the application of traceability/product tracing as a matter of priority. The Delegations of Mexico, Argentina, Chile and India maintained the view that the application of the definition should be deferred until the principles under development had been finalized.)
6. The amendments adopted as in the paragraph above will be included in the 14th Edition of the Procedural Manual.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

27th Codex Alimentarius Commission³

7. The Secretariat presented the report of the expenditures in the 2002-2003 biennium and the update information on the budget for the current, 2004-2005 biennium. The Secretariat indicated that for the present biennium the financial situation had improved since the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee due to an increase in the budget allocated by the parent organizations, thus allowing Codex to retain the initial programme of work, including the schedule of Codex sessions. However, several cost saving measures still had to be applied to absorb the reductions foreseen in the 2004 allotments.

8. The Commission **agreed** that the Secretariat would continue to explore possibilities of further cost savings, taking account of the comments made, and would soon issue a Circular Letter to all Codex Contact Points⁴ with a view to promoting the use of electronic distribution of documents in contrast to distribution of hard copies.

³ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 111 and 118

⁴ CL 2004/38-GEN (August 2004)

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

27th Codex Alimentarius Commission⁵

Status of the Strategic Framework 2003-2007 and Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007

9. The Commission **endorsed** the decision of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee to discontinue the elaboration of the Medium-Term Plan, with the understanding that its elements would be used as a basis for a list of programmes/activities to be incorporated into the new Strategic Plan 2008-2013. In the absence of a Medium-Term Plan, the Commission **agreed** that the Executive Committee would exercise its critical review functions, closely coordinate work between different Codex Committees and monitor the progress of standards development in accordance with the current Strategic Framework and the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*.

Preparation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013

10. The Commission **agreed** to initiate the preparation of a new Strategic Plan for the period 2008-2013, and **recommended** that:

- The Executive Committee, at its next session, discuss the structure and format for a new Strategic Plan covering a six-year period of 2008-2013 as well as the ways to further proceed with the development of the Strategic Plan;
- The Strategic Plan state strategic objectives and priorities of the Commission and incorporate a list of programme areas/planned activities with a clearly defined timetable for each of the activities;
- After requesting the views of Regional Coordinating Committees, the draft Plan be submitted to the Commission for adoption by 2007; and
- The Strategic Plan, once adopted, be renewed every two years on a rolling basis.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EVALUATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND OTHER FAO AND WHO WORK ON FOOD STANDARDS

26th Codex Alimentarius Commission⁶

11. The Commission took several decisions concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the Evaluation, enacting some immediately and requesting the Codex Committee on General Principles to draft the amendments to the Procedural Manual required implementing others (see paras 4-6). Some selected decisions are summarized below. Further details on this matter can be found in the report of the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

27th Codex Alimentarius Commission⁷

General Implementation Status

12. With respect to the discussions on “consensus” at the 54th Session of the Executive Committee, the Commission agreed to ask the Committee on General Principles to consider further the possibility of developing a definition of the term “consensus”.

⁵ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 121-125

⁶ ALINORM 03/41, paras 149-183.

⁷ ALINORM 04/27/41 paras 131-136

General Aspects

26th Codex Alimentarius Commission⁸

Annual meetings of the Commission

13. The Commission agreed to meet annually for the next two years, but that in future each session would consider the timing for the following session and the general nature of the agenda in order to achieve the appropriate balance between standards issues, general direction of work and policy matters, and taking into account the resources available for adequate participation.

Implementation of the Evaluation

14. The Commission decided that the responsibility for following up and monitoring progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the Evaluation Report would be entrusted to the Executive Committee. Twice-yearly sessions of the Committee would be scheduled in order to absorb the additional workload.

Priorities for implementation

15. The Commission decided that the priorities should be:

- (a) Processes for standards management, with due regard to the special needs of developing countries.
- (b) Functions and composition of the Executive Committee, including the participation of observers in the Executive Committee and Executive Committee procedures.
- (c) Review of the Committee structures and mandates (including Regional Committees).
- (d) Review of Rules and Procedures including guidelines for Codex Committees.

16. The Commission concluded that all four priorities were of equal importance, and that the ranking was made on the grounds of speed of potential progress.

Improved Processes for Standards Management

26th Codex Alimentarius Commission⁹

Critical review of proposals to undertake work and monitoring progress of standards development

17. The Commission decided to endorse the critical review process, including the preparation of project documents for major standards as well as the closely related proposal to revise the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities in order to ensure the relevance of Codex standards at the international level.

Standards management responsibility

18. The Commission decided that the Executive Committee be the body to undertake the critical review of new work. The Commission did not favour the replacement of the Executive Committee with an Executive Board.

Time-bound decision-making

19. The Commission decided that the body responsible for standards management (i.e. the Executive Committee) should review the status of development of draft standards at the end of a specified time-frame, normally not more than five years, and report its findings to the Commission. The time-frame could be less than five years, where this was appropriate or had been established during the critical review process for new work.

⁸ ALINORM 03/41, paras 150-152

⁹ ALINORM 03/41, paras 163-168

Simplified procedures for standards development

20. The Commission decided to retain the 8-Step process, with the existing mechanisms to accelerate the process when necessary.

Use of facilitators and establishment of electronic and/or physical working groups

21. The Commission agreed in principle to all three proposals but decided that the modalities would require clarification by the body responsible for reviewing the Procedural Manual. With respect to electronic working groups, the Commission noted that these were an avenue for exchanging views and not for decision making. Physical working groups should be ad hoc, open to all members, take account the problems of developing country participation and only be established where there is consensus in the Committee to do so and other strategies have been considered.

Adoption of Standards

22. The Commission decided that adoption of standards with a limited amendment should be allowed, provided that the draft standard had been forwarded to the Commission on the basis of consensus, based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Review of the Rules of Procedure and Other Procedural Matters

26th Codex Alimentarius Commission¹⁰

Responsibility for the Procedural Review

23. The Commission decided that the procedural review would be undertaken by the Codex Committee on General Principles, at special sessions and under a limited time-frame. The Commission agreed that the Committee would need clear instructions, terms of reference from the Commission and support from the Codex Secretariat.

Amendment of the Codex Mandate

24. The Commission decided that the current Codex Mandate as expressed in Article 1 of the Statutes of the Commission should be retained but that it might be discussed in the future.

Criteria for the establishment of work priorities

25. The Commission requested the Codex Committee on General Principles to redraft the *Criteria for Work Priorities* to reflect the current priorities of the Commission and in a manner that would provide explicit judgment tools for assessing work proposals against priorities.

Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces, including Regional Committees

26^h Codex Alimentarius Commission¹¹

26. The Commission decided that all the Committees and Task Forces would be reviewed together bearing in mind the objective of reducing the number of meetings while also keeping them short and focused. The Commission endorsed the recommendation made by the Executive Committee concerning the selection of consultants that would be entrusted with the review,¹² and stressed the critical importance of transparency in the process.

¹⁰ ALINORM 03/41, paras 169-170 and 182

¹¹ ALINORM 03/41, para. 154

¹² ALINORM 03/4, para. 23

27th Codex Alimentarius Commission¹³

Review of the Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces

27. The Commission **adopted** the following Terms of Reference of the Review:

- With the objective of reducing the number of Codex meetings while also keeping them short and focused, the review should concentrate on:
 - adequacy of the current structure of general subject committees to meet member countries' needs in a flexible and timely manner;
 - adequacy of the current structure of commodity committees to meet member countries' needs in a flexible and timely manner;
 - areas of overlap and areas where coverage of the subject matter is inadequate, taking into consideration the needs that were not covered or new issues that may arise in the future; and,
 - relationship between all committees and task forces, particularly the relations between commodity and general subject committees (task forces);
- Based on a detailed study of the points above and inputs received from various sources, recommendations should be formulated for consideration by the Commission. These may include proposals for revision of the existing committee mandates with a view to rationalisation, proposals for redistribution of tasks and responsibilities between committees, and proposals to split or merge committees.
- The recommendations to the Commission should also take into account the ability of all members of the Commission to participate in the standards development process, including the sustainability of the subsidiary body structures and their work programmes, especially in the light of the holding of annual sessions of the Commission and the operation of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex.

28. The Commission agreed that the recruitment of a small team of consultants (three or four) would be initiated after the Commission and that the time frame presented in document ALINORM 04/27/10C would be followed in order that recommendations be submitted to the 28th Session of the Commission. The Commission agreed that a Circular Letter would be sent to all Codex Members to ask for their views on the review of the mandates of Committees and Task Forces.

Review of the Regional Coordinating Committees

29. The Commission **agreed** that a Circular Letter would be issued to all Codex members to invite government comments in the following areas:

- Role of Regional Coordinating Committees in furthering the objectives of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
- Membership of Regional Coordinating Committees, including their current geographic coverage;
- Terms of reference of the Regional Coordinating Committees as set out in the Procedural Manual, including the relevance of developing regional standards;
- Effectiveness of Regional Coordinating Committees in respect of country participation record and of venues and meeting intervals (currently every two years);
- Respective roles of the Regional Coordinator as *ex officio* Chairperson of the Regional Coordinating Committee and the Member(s) of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis, particularly within the framework of the Executive Committee; and

¹³ ALINORM 04/27/41 paras 132-136

- Any other issues.

30. Regional Coordinating Committees, at their forthcoming session, would consider the comments from the governments of their respective Region and forward their view and/or recommendations to the 28th Session of the Commission for its consideration.

2. DECISIONS OF THE 26th SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE¹⁴

DRAFT MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS FOR VETERINARY DRUGS

31. The Commission **returned** the draft temporary MRLs for phoxim in cattle tissues and cow's milk to Step 6 pending JECFA re-evaluation, as recommended by 14th Sessions of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

32. The Commission **adopted** all the other draft MRLs at Step 8, with the following changes recommended by the 14th Session of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods:

- a) Full MRL for oxytetracycline in fish tissues;
- b) Full MRLs for phoxim in pig, sheep and goat tissues.

33. The Commission noted the reservation made by the Delegation of Italy, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Union, regarding the MRLs for tetracycline(s), cyfluthrin and porcine somatotropin.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

34. The Commission **adopted** the draft amendments to the Glossary of Terms and Definitions at Step 5 of the Accelerated Procedure.

PROPOSED DRAFT MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS FOR VETERINARY DRUGS

35. Following the recommendations of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, the Commission:

- a) Withdrew the proposed temporary MRLs for lincomycin in cattle and sheep tissues;
- b) Advanced the proposed draft temporary MRLs for cyhalothrin only to Step 6, pending further re-consideration by JECFA.
- c) Commission **adopted** the other proposed draft MRLs at Steps 5 and 8¹⁵.

36. The Commission noted the reservation made by Delegation of Italy, speaking on behalf of Member countries of the European Union, regarding the MRL for ivermectin in cow's milk.

37. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs at Step 5. The Delegation of Italy, speaking on behalf of the member countries of the European Union, said that their agreement for further advancement of cefuroxime would depend on the outcome of further evaluation and discussion by JECFA and Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

NEW WORK

38. The Commission approved the Priority List of Veterinary Drugs Requiring Evaluation or re-evaluation as new work for the Committee.

¹⁴ ALINORM 03/41, paras 112-117, 136, 138 (see Appendix VIII) and 203

¹⁵ The Commission based its decisions on Ivermectin in cow milk and Lincomycin in pig and chicken tissue and in cow milk on the recommendations of the 14th Session of the Committee (ALINORM 03/31A; paras 19 and 29 respectively).

OTHER MATTERS

39. The Commission revised the Codex Maximum Residue Limit of Dihydrostreptomycin/Streptomycin in cow's milk as a full MRL as recommended by the 14th Session of CCRVDF.

3. RISK ANALYSIS

26th Codex Alimentarius Commission¹⁶

40. The Commission **adopted** the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius and the Definitions related to risk analysis as contained in Appendix IV to this report.

41. The Commission **requested** that relevant Codex Committees develop or complete specific guidelines on risk analysis in their respective areas, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual, as recommended in the Action Plan mentioned above. The Commission noted that these texts would be submitted to the Committee on General Principles in order to ensure coordination of work and consistency with the overarching Working Principles.

27th Codex Alimentarius Commission¹⁷

42. The Commission noted that several Committees had developed or were in the process of developing guidance on risk analysis in their respective areas, for inclusion in the Procedural Manual. The Commission **endorsed** the recommendations of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee and decided to:

- a) **request** each relevant Codex Committee, when developing or completing specific guidelines on risk analysis, to review and document the mechanism it uses to identify and prioritise proposals for new work, particularly in the light of needs for and availability of scientific advice;
- b) request the Committee on General Principles, when examining specific guidelines submitted by other Committees, to ensure as much consistency as possible between the guideline texts;
- c) request the Committee on General Principles to continue the revision of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities, especially from the viewpoint of the need for clear prioritisation of requests for scientific advice; and
- d) monitor the progress of all the work mentioned above and take into account its outcome in the development of the next Strategic Plan.

4. ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

54th Executive Committee (24-26 June 2004)¹⁸

43. While noting that antimicrobial resistance is an important matter to be addressed by Codex, the Executive Committee was of the view that there are several possible options for the Commission to deal with this matter, including the establishment of a Codex task force with the active participation of the OIE, or the use of existing Codex subsidiary bodies such as the Committee on Food Hygiene, the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and the task Force on Animal Feeding.

44. The Executive Committee agreed that before deciding on the procedure to follow, the Commission should develop a clear and common understanding of what should be achieved by Codex in regard to the question of antimicrobial resistance related to non-human use of antimicrobials. The Executive Committee further agreed that it would be useful to prepare a Circular letter to request the views of members and Observers on what it is expected as future achievements by Codex in this area.

¹⁶ ALINORM 03/41, paras 146-147

¹⁷ ALINORM 04/27/41, para. 124.

¹⁸ ALINORM 04/27/4, paras 68-73

27th Codex Alimentarius Commission ¹⁹

45. The Representative of WHO informed the Commission that the two FAO/WHO/OIE workshops²⁰ have been convened, at the request of the 48th Session of the Executive Committee, in order to advise the Commission on possible directions to be taken on this issue. He stressed the need to address the matters regarding the terminology, risk assessment policy and risk management option for the containment of antimicrobial resistance.

46. The Representative of the OIE drew the attention of the Commission to the fact that the OIE had already adopted sections on the containment of antimicrobial resistance in the OIE Code and indicated that OIE would support recommendations of the second Workshop held in Oslo. The Representative pointed out that in principle the OIE would accept the proposal to establish a joint ad hoc Task Force on antimicrobial resistance, to operate on the procedures to be agreed upon by the bodies, with specific terms of reference in accordance with the outcome of the Oslo Workshop: to define risk assessment policy to be used by JEMRA; to develop risk management options; to consolidate existing texts in this area; and to develop guidance for the use of antimicrobials in animal production.

47. The Commission noted the willingness of the Republic of Korea to host an *ad hoc* Task Force on Antimicrobial resistance, if such a Task Force was to be establishing in the future.

48. The Commission noted that there was a unanimous support for the cooperation with the OIE, but that financial implications and impact on country participation, especially for developing countries should be carefully considered before taking a final decision towards establishing a new Task Force is taken. The Commission also noted the kind offer of the OIE that the cost for joint activities could be shared between the organizations.

49. The Commission agreed that there were several possible options for the Commission to deal with this matter, including the establishment of a Codex task force with active participation of the OIE, or the use of existing subsidiary bodies such as the Committee on Food Hygiene, the Committee on Residues of veterinary Drugs in Foods and the Task Force on Animal Feeding.

50. The Commission further agreed that before deciding on the procedural mechanisms to further work, there should be a clear and common understanding of what should be achieved by Codex in regard to the question of antimicrobial resistance related to non-human use of antimicrobials.

51. In order to facilitate the discussion, the Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare as soon as possible, a Circular Letter²¹, which would include two questions:

- What should be achieved by Codex to address the issue of antimicrobial resistance related to non-human use of antimicrobials (e.g. risk assessment principles, risk management options);
- What mechanisms should be used by Codex to achieve the above outcome?

52. The Commission agreed that the comments received in reply to the Circular letter would be considered at the 55th Session of the Executive Committee (February 2005) with the understanding that it would provide the advice to the next session of the Commission.

¹⁹ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 210-219

²⁰ Joint WHO/FAO/OIE Expert Workshop on Non-human Antimicrobial Usage and Antimicrobial Resistance (Geneva, 1-5 December 2003); Joint WHO/FAO/OIE 2nd Expert Workshop on Non-human Antimicrobial Usage and Antimicrobial Resistance: Management Options (Oslo, Norway, 15-18 March 2004)

²¹ CL 2004/32-EXE (July 2004) (deadline for submission of comments: 12 November 2004)

5. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

26th Codex Alimentarius Commission²²

53. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Evaluation Team and Panel (Recommendation 8) that Codex and OIE should intensify their collaboration to minimize overlaps and avoid gaps in standard setting so as to ensure a farm-to-fork approach to the safety of food of animal origin.

53rd Executive Committee (4-6 February 2004)²³

54. The Executive Committee agreed to request FAO and WHO to initiate discussion with OIE as to how to foster and oversee the relations between Codex and OIE, and that the Executive Committee and the Commission should be consulted by the parent organizations before concrete steps be taken to develop such relations. The Committee also noted that cooperation with the OIE would be considered in the framework of cooperation with international governmental organizations being developed by the Committee on General Principles.

20th Committee on General Principles (3-7 May 2004)²⁴

55. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat would redraft the proposed Draft Guidelines for consideration at the next (extraordinary) session. The Committee agreed that the revised version should be developed on the basis of the current section 3c (cooperation at the initial stages) and in the light of the comments made at the present session, in order to ensure cooperation, collaboration, consistency and communication, including exchange of information, between Codex and the cooperating organization, taking into account the relationship with organizations referred to under the SPS Agreements.

27th Codex Alimentarius Commission²⁵

56. The Commission took note of the status of the draft Guidelines for Cooperation with International Intergovernmental Organization under development in the Committee on General Principles and noted that the 21st Session of the Committee (November 2004) would consider a revised draft prepared by the Secretariat. In this regard, the Commission noted that the Committee on General Principles did not support the elaboration of a joint standard with a cooperating organization.

Relation between Codex and OIE

57. The Commission was informed of the recent revision of the Agreements of cooperation between FAO and the OIE and the OIE and WHO. The Representatives of FAO and WHO reiterated their support for a strengthened collaboration between Codex and OIE and the Commission noted that discussion on how to foster the cooperation would start between FAO, WHO and OIE on the basis of the revised interagency agreements.

58. The Commission concluded the discussion by reiterating its interest for increased cooperation with OIE and suggested that FAO and WHO initiate discussion in accordance with the recommendations of the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee (see para. 54), taking account of the comments made. The Commission requested the Committee on General Principles to finalise the Guidelines at an early opportunity and recommended that the collaboration between Codex and OIE be strengthened also at national and regional level.

²² ALINORM 03/41, para. 181

²³ ALINORM 04/27/3, paras 100-104

²⁴ ALINORM 04/27/33A, para. 109

²⁵ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 173-180

6. MATTERS FROM OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS

59. The Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Section 6. Aquaculture)²⁶ includes the following sections referring to the administration on veterinary drugs. **The CCRVDF is invited to consider the section and provide comments**, as required.

6.3 Production Operations

6.3.1 Feed Supply

Feeds used in aquaculture production should comply with the Codex 'Draft Code of Practice of Good Animal Feeding' (under development in the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding).

Potential Hazards: Chemical contamination, mycotoxins and microbiological pathogens .

Potential Defects: Decomposed feeds, fungal spoilage

Technical Guidance:

- Feed and fresh stocks should be purchased and rotated and used prior to the expiry of their shelf life.
- Fish feeds should be stored in cool and dry areas to prevent spoilage, mould growth and contamination.
- Feed ingredients should not contain unsafe levels of pesticides, chemical contaminants, microbial toxins, or other adulterating substances.
- Industrially produced complete feeds and industrially produced feed ingredients should be properly labelled. Their composition must fit the declaration on the label and they should be hygienically acceptable.
- Ingredients should meet acceptable, and if applicable, statutory standards for levels of pathogens, mycotoxins, herbicides, pesticides and other contaminants which may give rise to human health hazards.
- Only approved colours of the correct concentration should be included in the feed.
- Moist feed or feed ingredients should be fresh and of adequate chemical and microbiological quality.
- Fresh or frozen fish, fish silage, offal from fish should reach the fish farm in an adequate state of freshness.
- Rejects from animal slaughterhouses must be processed by an approved procedure, prior to acceptance.
- Feed which is compounded industrially or at the fish farm, should contain only such additives, growth promoting substances, fish flesh colouring agents; anti-oxidising agents, caking agents or veterinary drugs which are permitted for fish by the official agency having jurisdiction.
- Products should be registered with the relevant national authority as appropriate.
- Storage and transport conditions should conform to the specifications on the label.
- Veterinary drug and other chemical treatments should be done in accordance with recommended practices and comply with national regulations.
- Farmers should follow manufacturers' instructions on the use of veterinary drugs or medicated feeds.
- Product tracing of all feed ingredients should be assured by proper record keeping.

²⁶ ALINORM 04/27/18, Appendix V

6.3.2 Veterinary Drugs

Potential Hazards: Residues of veterinary drugs

Potential Defects: Unlikely

Technical Guidance:

- All veterinary drugs for use in fish farming should comply with national regulations and international guidelines (in accordance with the Recommended International Code of Practice for Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs (CAC/RCP 38-1993) and the Codex Guidelines for the Establishment of a regulatory programme for control of veterinary drug residues in foods (CAC/GL 16-1993)).
- Prior to administering veterinary drugs, a system should be in place to monitor the application of the drug to ensure that the withdrawal time for the batch of treated fish can be verified.
- Veterinary drugs or medicated feeds should be used according to manufacturers' instructions, with particular attention to withdrawal periods.
- Products should be registered with the appropriate national authority.
- Products should only be prescribed or distributed by personnel authorised under national regulations.
- Storage and transport conditions should conform to the specifications on the label.
- Control of diseases with drugs should be carried out only on the basis of an accurate diagnosis.
- Records should be maintained for the use of veterinary drugs in aquaculture production. Pre-slaughter control is a method of controlling drug residues in fish. If the average drug concentration in tested fish is above the MRL, (or in some countries, by an industry imposed lower level), slaughter of the batch has to be postponed until the fish complies with the MRL. A post-slaughter control should reject all fish that do not comply with the requirements set for veterinary drug residues by the Codex Alimentarius.

7. OTHER MATTERS

SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

26th Codex Alimentarius Commission²⁷

60. The Commission welcomed the progress made by FAO and WHO in the preparation of the Consultative Study on the Provision of Scientific Advice and expressed appreciation on the progress already made. The Commission indicated the need to involve in the process all stakeholders and the importance to ensure adequate interaction between risk assessors and risk managers. It was suggested that the process should also consider mechanisms to avoid duplication of efforts.

61. The Commission noted the efforts of FAO and WHO in improving transparency in the selection of experts and in working procedures and the enhanced timeliness and quality of scientific advice provided to Codex.

62. The Commission acknowledged the large amount of requests for scientific advice raised through the Codex system. It recognized the need for Codex to prioritize its requests in coordination with the Secretariats of the FAO/WHO Scientific Committees and of the *ad hoc* Expert Consultations, considering also the needs of scientific advice of developing countries.

²⁷ ALINORM 03/41, paras 192-195

63. The Commission noted the need for Member Countries to provide appropriate data, experts and other necessary resources to facilitate the timely provision of the advice requested. It stressed the importance of considering data from developing countries. In this regard it pointed out that FAO/WHO should help developing countries to generate data required to set international standards. It welcomed the resolution of the World Health Assembly in this regard and the efforts already made by FAO and WHO.

27th Codex Alimentarius Commission²⁸

64. The Representative of FAO presented a progress report of the FAO/WHO Consultative Process on Provisions of Scientific Advice, including the outcome of the FAO/WHO Workshop held in January 2004 and the comments of the Workshop report received from governments and non-governmental organizations. The Representative of FAO indicated that the final step of the consultative process would be implemented in the form of an expert consultation or an intergovernmental meeting to prepare feasible recommendations to FAO and WHO, once the analysis of the workshop recommendations has been completed and necessary resources mobilised.

65. The Commission noted the advance being made and expressed their appreciation to FAO and WHO for their efforts to improve the scientific advice provided to the Commission.

66. The Commission agreed that priority for the provision of scientific advice should be given to requests coming from Codex subsidiary bodies rather than from Member governments and that the work plan of Codex shall take into account the availability of relevant scientific advice. The Commission noted the view that priority should also be given to the concerns of developing countries, the decisions of the Commission and prioritised requests by Codex subsidiary bodies.

67. The Commission noted that in the absence of Codex Criteria for setting priorities for the provision of scientific advice, FAO and WHO would continue planning expert meetings and consultations considering the following criteria: a) clear scope of the advice requested; b) urgency of the advice requested; c) availability of required data or commitment of countries to provide such data; and d) availability of financial resources.

DRAFT MRL FOR BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN²⁹

68. The 26th and 27th Sessions of the Commission, noted that no requests had been received to change the status of the standard and therefore agreed to continue to hold the draft standard at Step 8.

FAO/WHO TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX³⁰

69. The 27th Session of the Commission acknowledged that the Trust Fund had become operational since March 2004 after the threshold of USD 500,000 was reached. It encouraged other countries to contribute and recommended that FAO and WHO look into the possibilities to seek funds from other sources, such as Foundations, while ensuring that conflict of interest be avoided.

70. The Commission generally supported the use of Trust Fund for projects other than for travelling to Codex sessions such as participation in training activities, building capacities of new Codex members and the provision of additional funding to a country taking on greater responsibilities at the regional level. It was however stressed that participation in training activities on Codex should not be the primary focus of the Trust Fund, but rather covered by the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary resources of FAO and WHO as part of their capacity building activities.

²⁸ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 197-208.

²⁹ ALINORM 03/41 para. 34 and ALINORM 04/27/41, para. 22

³⁰ ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 188-194