

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

CX/AMR 08/2/2
September 2008

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE
ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Second Session

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 20-24 October 2008

**MATTERS REFERRED TO THE TASK FORCE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES¹**

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 31ST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

A. Items for Information

Proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Codex Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance²

1. The Commission adopted the proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Task Force as proposed by the Task Force. The relevant discussion of the 60th and 61st sessions of the Executive Committee (December 2007 and June 2008) is reproduced in the Annex to this document.

Proposals for new work

Science-based Risk Assessment Guidance Regarding Food-borne Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms

Risk Management Guidance to Contain Food-borne Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms

Guidance on Creating Risk Profiles for Antimicrobial Resistant Food-borne Microorganisms for Setting Risk Assessment and Management Priorities

2. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the 61st Session of the Executive Committee to approve these new work proposals, taking into account its *Strategic Plan and the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies*.³

¹ This document only contains information on matters arising from or referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission that are specific to the activities of the Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance. Other decisions and guidance of the 31st Session of the Commission are found in ALINORM 08/31/REP. The Codex Secretariat will report verbally on matters of horizontal nature as appropriate to the discussion of the Task Force.

² ALINORM 08/31/REP para 12 and Appendix II

³ ALINORM 08/31/REP para 92 and Appendix X

60th SESSION (DECEMBER 2007)¹***Proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Codex Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance***

1. One member expressed concern that the proposed amendment could expand the scope of work of the Task Force and consequently affect the ability of the Task Force to complete its work within the timeframe assigned by the Commission. Another member, while noting that the proposed amendment did not change the specific terms of reference of the Task Force, recalled that it was the Executive Committee's role to ensure that the Task Force did not embark on activities that could not be completed within its timeframe. The Committee noted another view that the proposed amendment to the "Objectives" would allow the Task Force to examine antimicrobial resistance in a more holistic manner and would also facilitate the provision of scientific advice on a broader basis that might be requested by the Task Force at a later stage.
2. The Committee could not come to a conclusion on this matter and noted that more time was needed to consider in detail the report of the Task Force. Therefore, the Committee agreed to reconsider the matter at its next session and, where possible, to provide its advice to the Commission.

61st SESSION (JUNE 2008)²***Proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Codex Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance***

3. The Committee noted that the proposed amendment to the Section "Objectives" of the Terms of Reference was prepared in order to clarify that the Task Force should attempt to put into wider perspective the risk of increase of antimicrobial resistance generated by different areas of use of antimicrobials, such as veterinary applications, plant protection or food processing.
4. One member proposed to replace the term "plant protection" with "plant health" since the scope of the plant protection was considered much wider and would cover other issues which were not directly associated with potential occurrences of antimicrobial resistance. Noting that the Task Force had agreed to cover issues on plant protection with the recognition that there were certain antimicrobials actually used to protect plants against certain pests, the Committee agreed to keep the original wording without changes.
5. The Committee agreed to recommend that the 31st Session of the Commission adopt the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference as proposed by the Task Force, without any amendments.

Objectives

To develop science based guidance, taking full account of its risk analysis principles and the work and standards of other relevant international Organizations, such as FAO, WHO and OIE. The intent of this guidance is to assess the risks to human health associated with the presence in food and feed including aquaculture and the transmission through food and feed of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and antimicrobial resistance genes and to develop appropriate risk management advice based on that assessment to reduce such risk. The Task Force should attempt to put into perspective the risk of increase of antimicrobial resistance in human beings and animal generated by different areas of use of antimicrobials such as veterinary applications, plant protection or food processing.

Terms of reference

[No Change]

Time frame

[No Change]

¹ ALINORM 08/31/3

² ALINORM 08/31/3A