

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

CX/MAS 19/40/2

April 2019

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

40<sup>th</sup> Session

Budapest, Hungary, 27 - 31 May 2019

#### MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

#### A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 41<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

##### MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

##### *Standards and Related Texts Adopted<sup>1</sup>*

1. The Commission **adopted** the methods of analysis and performance criteria for provisions in Codex standards; and editorial amendments to CXS 234-1999.

##### *New work<sup>2</sup>*

2. The Commission **approved** new work on the revision of the *Guidelines on measurement uncertainty* (CXG 54 – 2004) and the *Guidelines on sampling* (CXG 50 – 2004).

#### B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES

##### MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

##### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE (CCFH50)

##### *Sampling plans related to histamine food safety in fish commodities<sup>3</sup>*

3. In view of lack of consensus on sampling plans related to histamine food safety in fish commodity standards, CCFH50 agreed to postpone consideration of the work until such time as CCMAS had completed its amendments to the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50 – 2004).

4. CCFH also agreed to inform CCMAS of the challenges faced by the Committee in developing sampling plan for histamine in fish commodities that achieved an acceptable balance between consumer protection, feasibility and practicability, with the view that they could take this into consideration in the revision of CXG 50 – 2004.

##### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS (CCFICS24)

##### *Food integrity and food authenticity<sup>4</sup>*

5. CCFICS24 continued the discussions on the topic of food integrity, food authenticity and food fraud and noted that the work was broad and might overlap with the mandates of other committees and CCFICS could consider seeking advice from the Commission and relevant Committees.

6. The results of the discussion and any proposals for new work in CCFICS would not preclude other Codex committees from initiating new work that may complement the work of CCFICS falling within the scope and mandate of their respective Committees

<sup>1</sup> REP18/CAC, para16 and Appendix III

<sup>2</sup> REP18/CAC, para 66 and Appendix VI

<sup>3</sup> REP19/FH, paras 40 - 47

<sup>4</sup> REP19/FICS, paras 54 - 60

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS (CCCF13)****Sampling plans for methylmercury in fish<sup>5</sup>**

7. CCCF13 considered the sampling plans taking into account the comments submitted including those made by CCMAS39 as well as the two questions that CCMAS was unable to address.
8. CCCF13 was informed that a revised sampling plan would not be presented at this session as areas of inconsistency with other sampling plans in the GSCTFF were identified and needed to be addressed; and noted that the two following remaining questions, i.e. (i) whether there is evidence that methylmercury can vary widely between individual fish sampled at the same time and (ii) whether the whole fish should be analyzed or only specific fractions of edible portions, could be addressed through the consideration of contemporary scientific literature and national monitoring data. Both these issues could be addressed through the Electronic Working Group on MLs for methylmercury in fish and the findings presented for consideration at CCCF14.
9. CCCF13 agreed to this proposal and decided to re-establish the EWG chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Canada to consider, amongst other matters, issues related to sampling plans for methylmercury in fish.
10. The Committee **is invited to note** the above information.

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<sup>5</sup> REP19/CF, paras. 124-127