



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

CX/CF 17/11/2-Add.1
March 2017

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

**Eleventh Session
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 – 7 April 2017**

**MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
AND/OR ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

BACKGROUND

1. CCFO23 (February 2013) agreed to ask CCCF to include the current level for arsenic and lead in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (GSCTFF) (CODEX STAN 193-1995) under the proposed draft Standard for Fish Oils and at the same time to ask the CCCF to re-evaluate the level of lead and arsenic in fish oils, taking into account the notes for arsenic in the GSCTFF. When re-evaluating the level for arsenic, the CCCF should consider whether total arsenic or inorganic arsenic is more appropriate for fish oils as the form of arsenic occurring in fish oils is mainly the organic methylated form, with a low acute toxicity.¹
2. CCCF07 (April 2013) noted that fish oils, which were currently covered by “Edible fats and oils” in the GSCTFF, would lose the provisions for lead and arsenic when the standard for fish oils would be elaborated. The Committee agreed to consider the allocation of maximum levels (MLs) for lead and arsenic for fish oils once the standard for fish oils was finalized and whether the MLs should apply to total arsenic or inorganic arsenic as more appropriate for these products.²
3. CCFO25 (February 2017) recalled that CCCF had agreed to consider the allocation of MLs for lead and arsenic in fish oils and whether the MLs should apply to total arsenic or inorganic arsenic as more appropriate for these products once the standard was finalized.
4. The Committee agreed to inform CCCF that the work on the standard was now completed. CCCF should therefore consider to develop maximum levels for arsenic and lead for inclusion into the GSCTFF. Attention should be paid to the presence of inorganic arsenic in fish oils.
5. The Committee thus agreed to inform CCCF of the completion of its work and to reconfirm its request for CCCF to establish ML for arsenic, in particular inorganic arsenic, and ML for lead in fish oil.³

Request for action

6. The Committee is invited to consider the above request.

¹ REP13/FO, para. 64

² REP13/CF, para. 12

³ REP17/FO, paras. 22, 23 and 28