

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 16 F

CX/FAC 03/31  
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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Thirty-fifth Session

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 17 - 21 March 2003

#### COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR CADMIUM IN RESPONSE TO CL 2002/10-FAC

The following comments have been received from Canada::

#### CANADA:

In response to Circular Letter **2002/10-FAC (April 2002)**, Canada is pleased to offer the following comments on Item 12, Part C:

*The Committee returned proposed draft maximum levels for fruit; wheat grain; milled rice; soybean and peanuts; meat of cattle, poultry, pig and sheep; meat of horse; vegetables; peeled potatoes, stem and root vegetables; leafy vegetables, fresh herbs fungi and celeriac and molluscs to Step 3 for circulation, comments and further consideration at its next meeting.*

Para 143, 34<sup>th</sup> Report of CCFAC

Canada has submitted information on cadmium levels in most of these foods in previous years and has no additional data to contribute. Canada supports the proposed draft maximum levels of 0.05 mg/kg for fruit; 0.2 mg/kg for wheat grain (including bran and germ); 0.2 mg/kg for milled rice; 0.2 mg/kg for soybean and peanuts; 0.05 mg/kg for meat of cattle, poultry, pig and sheep; 0.2 mg/kg for meat of horse, 0.05 mg/kg for vegetables (excluding leafy vegetables, fresh herbs, stem and root vegetables, fungi, tomatoes and peeled potatoes); 0.1 mg/kg for peeled potatoes, stem and root vegetables (excluding celeriac); and 0.2 ppm for leafy vegetables, fresh herbs, fungi and celeriac (Appendix XIV).

However, Canada provided data to Codex last year showing the naturally-occurring cadmium in molluscs (specifically oysters) from the west coast of Canada will frequently exceed the 1.0 mg/kg level. It appears that these findings are not unique to the Canadian environment and, in light of this finding, Canada has recommended that the proposed maximum level for molluscs be reexamined in consideration of the natural occurrence of this heavy metal and the total exposure to cadmium from all sources.