

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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**Agenda Item 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11,
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMENTS OF MAURITIUS

ITEM 4.5: Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

NEW MRLS FOR 13 COMPOUNDS

Mauritius supports the final adoption of MRLs at Step 5/8 for all the listed compounds. The compounds are being used and therefore limits for residues in the different commodities need to be established by Codex to protect consumer health and to promote international trade. ii) For the extrapolated MRLs for different compounds, the extrapolation was done in line with the rules spelt out in the "Approach for the extrapolation of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs to one or more species" that was adopted by CAC44.

Proposals for new work PRIORITY LIST OF VETERINARY DRUGS FOR EVALUATION OR RE-EVALUATION BY JECFA

Mauritius supports the approval of the priority list of veterinary drugs (Parts I and V) by CAC46

The use of the compounds globally are increasing and thus the need to establish the safety MRLs applicable to them so as to assure consumers safety. ii) For the compounds identified for extrapolation, the approach for the extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs to one or more species was already approved by CAC44.

Proposals for discontinuation of work MRLS FOR IVERMECTIN (SHEEP, PIGS AND GOATS – FAT, KIDNEY, LIVER AND MUSCLE) AT STEP 7.

Mauritius supports the recommendation for discontinuation of work on MRLs for Ivermectin for sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle at Step 7. Rationale: New MRLs have been advanced to CAC46 for final adoption at Step 5/8.

ITEM 4.6: Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

1. REVIEW OF THE STANDARD FOR FOLLOW-UP FORMULA (CXS 156-1987)

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDARD FOR CANNED BABY FOODS (CXS 73-1981) AND THE ADVISORY LIST OF NUTRIENT COMPOUNDS FOR USE IN FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES INTENDED FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (CXG 10-1979)

Mauritius supports the adoption of the texts at Steps 5/8 and 8 as proposed by the committee for both standards. The concerns raised during review of follow-up formula were extensively discussed and consensus was built on all aspects. Proposed amendments are scientifically based. Mauritius thanks the FAO and WHO for the scientific advice.

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NRVS-R FOR PERSONS AGED 6 – 36 MONTHS

Mauritius welcomes the draft general principles on establishing NRV-R for older infants and young children at step 5 and thanks Chairs and co-chairs, to lead this work. We welcome the progress made and agree with the principles so far and support continuation of the work in order to establish values on the relevant nutrients.

Mauritius supports the adoption of General Principles for the establishment of NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months at Step 5.

ITEM 4.7: Codex Committee on Food Additives

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

1. Revision to the descriptors to FCs 12.2.1 (Herbs) and 12.2.2 (Condiments)
2. Inclusion of the provision for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1 in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995)
3. Inclusion of the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3 (CXS 192-1995)
4. Inclusion of the provisions for riboflavin, synthetic (INS 101(i)), riboflavin 5'-phosphate sodium (INS 101(ii)), riboflavin from *Bacillus subtilis* (INS 101(iii)), riboflavin from *Ashbya gossypii* (INS 101(iv)) and spirulina extract (INS 134) in Table 3 (CXS 1921995)
5. Proposed draft revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989)
6. Proposed draft Specifications for inclusion in the List of Codex Specifications for Food Additives (CXA 6-2021)
7. Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995) and revisions to adopted provisions.
8. Inclusion of mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (INS 471) in FC 02.1.2 (CXS 192-1995)
9. Inclusion of the provisions for polyglycerol esters of fatty acids (INS 475), sorbitan esters of fatty acids (INS 491-495), and stearyl lactylates (INS 481(i), 482(i)) in FC 02.1.2 (CXS 192- 1995)
10. Revision to Notes 488 and 502 (CXS 192-1995)
11. Deletion of Note 301 from the provision for BENZOATES in FC 14.1.4 (CXS 192-1995)
12. Inclusion of riboflavin from *Ashbya gossypii* (INS 101(iv)) in the group header RIBOFLAVINS in Tables 1 and 2 of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995)
13. Revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of seven standards for CCMMP, three standards for CCPFV, six standards for CCNFSDU, one standard for CCAFRICA, one standard for CCEURO, and one set of guidelines for CCNFSDU (CXS 192- 1995)
14. Revisions to the adopted provisions for sweeteners in different FCs (CXS 192-1995)
15. Revised food-additive sections of seven standards for CCMMP, three standards for CCPFV, six standards for CCNFSDU, one standard for CCAFRICA, one standard for CCEURO and one set of guidelines for CCNFSDU

Mauritius supports adoption of the final texts as presented by CCFA for final adoption except Inclusion of the provision for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1 in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995) and Inclusion of the provisions for food additives in FC 14.2.3.

Inclusion of the provision for trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in FC 01.1.1 in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995 – The use of additives in this category is not acceptable. The justification provided for use of this additive is not convincing and has the potential of misleading the consumers on the true nature of the product. UHT processing of milk has been done over years without the need to use any additives for stabilization.

Proposals to undertake new work or revise a standard.

1. Proposals for new food additive provisions of the GSFA
2. Priority List of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA.

Position: Mauritius supports the adoption of these new work by CCFA. The proposed new work items are consistent with the scope of the committee of ensuring safety of food additives and maintain GSFA.

Codex standards and related texts proposed for revocation.

Mauritius supports the revocation of the food additives provisions as provided. The justification is based on systematic review and recommendations by JECFA as well as identified inconsistencies by the Codex Secretariat during updating of GSFA. New technical information has been provided by JECFA in line with the procedures.

ITEM 4.8: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

1. An ML of 0.15 mg/kg for lead in soft brown, raw, and non-centrifugal sugars for adoption at Step 5/8;
2. An ML of 0.02 mg/kg for lead in ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children for adoption at Step 8
3. A Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products to CAC46 for adoption at Step 8
4. Sampling plans for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children for adoption at Step 5/8
5. An ML of 20 µg/kg for aflatoxin in chili pepper and nutmeg (dry/dried) for adoption at Step 5/8.
6. An ML 20 µg/kg for OTA in chili pepper, paprika and nutmeg (dry/dried) for adoption at Step 5/8.

Mauritius supports the adoption of the six (6) standards and text presented by CCCF presented for final adoption at steps 5/8 and 8

ITEM 4.9: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

- 1) GUIDELINES ON RECOGNITION AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIVALENCE OF NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS (NFCS)
- 2) PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF REMOTE AUDIT AND INSPECTION IN REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Mauritius supports the adoption of Guidelines on Recognition and Maintenance of Equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS) and the Principles and Guidelines on the Use of Remote Audit and Inspection in Regulatory Frameworks at Step 5/8. The Committee has taken into consideration the technical comments raised during committee stage with text providing practical guidance for recognition and remote audits.

Proposals for new work/revision REVIEW AND UPDATE OF PRINCIPLES FOR TRACEABILITY/PRODUCT TRACING AS A TOOL WITHIN A FOOD INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM (CXG 60-2006)

Mauritius supports the revision of the Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Inspection and Certification System as it allows the alignment of principles to the current and emerging regulatory and industry good practices and advances in technology.

ITEM 4.10: Codex Committee on Food Labelling

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

1. REVISION TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS (CXS 1-1985): PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO ALLERGEN LABELLING

Mauritius would like to thank Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America for preparing the proposed draft revision and guideline. We support the adoption of standard at Step 5. The adoption of agreed text will enable the committee to progress discussions on the remaining parts in square brackets in next session without the need of opening discussion on areas where agreements has been reached and facilitate fast conclusion of the standard.

1. GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF FOOD INFORMATION FOR PRE-PACKAGED FOODS TO BE OFFERED VIA E-COMMERCE

Mauritius would like to thank the Electronic Working Group chaired by the UK and co-chaired by Japan, Chile, India and Ghana for preparing this document. We support the adoption of standard at Step 5. The adoption of agreed text will enable the committee to progress discussions on the remaining parts in square brackets in next session without the need of opening discussion on areas where agreements has been reached and facilitate fast conclusion of the standard. Fast conclusion will be important in facilitating e-commerce which is on the rise globally. This will also effectively position Codex text as relevant in facilitating trade and protecting the consumers.

2. GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE FOOD INFORMATION

Mauritius supports adoption of the guidelines on the on the Use of Technology to Provide Food Information at Step 5 as these guidelines will provide an opportunity for manufacturers to provide additional information about the products which is currently limited by the space. The final publication of the will ensure relevance of Codex text in the ever changing technology environment

New project proposal: AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL STANDARD FOR THE LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS (CXS 1-1985): LABELLING OF PRE-PACKAGED FOODS IN JOINT PRESENTATION AND MULTIPACK FORMATS

Mauritius supports adoption of the new work by CAC46.

ITEM 4.11: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

1) METHODS OF ANALYSIS/PERFORMANCE CRITERIA/SAMPLING PLANS FOR PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS (CXS 234-1999, CXS 193-1995)

2) REVISED GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SAMPLING (CXG 50-2004)

Mauritius supports the revisions of fats and oils methods as recommended by CCMAS42 and the revised guidelines on sampling (CXG 50-2004) for final adoption at Step 8 by CAC46.

The methods of analysis/performance criteria/sampling plans are internationally validated that meet the required performance criteria, making them invaluable tools for assessing the quality and safety of fats and oils products.

The revised General Guidelines on Sampling has enhanced practical applicability and the theoretical concepts therein have also been simplified.

Codex Standards and related texts proposed for revocation

- 1) METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR PROVISIONS IN CODEX STANDARDS (CXS 234–1999)
- 2) GENERAL METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR CONTAMINANTS (CXS 228- 2001)

Mauritius supports revocation of CXS 234-1999 and CXS 228-2001 and endorses the listing of all methods in CXS 234-1999 and other recommended methods of analysis.

ITEM 4.12: Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption at Step 5/8

- 1) MRLs FOR DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS OF PESTICIDE/COMMODITY(IES)
- 2) REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED (CXA 4-1989) AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE ON THE SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE COMMODITIES FOR THE EXTRAPOLATION OF MRLS FOR PESTICIDES TO COMMODITY GROUPS (CXG 84-2012) (COMPLETION OF CLASS B - PRIMARY COMMODITIES OF ANIMAL ORIGIN AND CLASS E – PROCESSED COMMODITIES OF ANIMAL ORIGIN AND CORRESPONDING TABLE 9 AND TABLE 10 OF REPRESENTATIVE COMMODITIES)

Mauritius supports the adoption, at Step 5/8, of the proposed MRLs for the different pesticides/commodities combinations as provided in REP23/PR54, Appendix II and the Revised Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989) and Consequential Amendment to the Principles and guidance on the selection of representative commodities for the extrapolation of MRLs for pesticides to commodity groups. The JMPR 2022 evaluation report shows that the estimated long term (based on the 17 GEMs cluster diets) and short term dietary intake for the compounds submitted by CCPR for approval do not exceed the health based guidance values and therefore unlikely to pose public health concerns. Additionally, data for the crops are comparable and can be extrapolated to the subgroup to facilitate trade in these commodities. Also, the proposed animal grouping (fresh and processed) with the representative commodities will allow the extrapolation MRLs for the commodities within the groups and subgroups. The representative commodities are commercially important and have similar residue characteristics to the other commodities in the group and subgroup.

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

- 1) CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CXLs FOR PEPPERS GROUPS/SUBGROUPS TO COVER OKRA, MARTYNNIA AND ROSELLE
- 2) CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED (CXA 4- 1989) (REVISED DEFINITIONS FOR THE PORTION OF THE COMMODITY TO WHICH MRLs APPLY AND WHICH IS ANALYZED FOR GROUP 006 – ASSORTED TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL FRUITS OF INEDIBLE PEEL AND GROUP 023 – OILSEEDS AND OILFRUITS)
- 3) CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE:
 - CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED (CXA 4-1989) (ADDITIONAL COMMODITY GROUPS IN CLASS A – PRIMARY FOOD COMMODITIES OF PLANT ORIGIN AND CLASS D – PROCESSED COMMODITIES OF PLANT ORIGIN; AND
 - PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE ON THE SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE COMMODITIES FOR THE EXTRAPOLATION OF MRLS TO COMMODITY GROUPS (CXG 84-2012) (REVISED GROUP 12C – EGGPLANT AND EGGPLANT-LIKE COMMODITIES, TABLE 2)

Mauritius supports the approval of the consequential amendments in 1, 2 and 3 above. The consequential amendment to the CXLs for peppers groups/subgroups to cover okra, martynia and roselle is a pragmatic risk

management decision taken in the interim to support international trade while more data is generated to allow a more robust assessment by JMPR. The data for the crops are comparable and can be extrapolated to the sub group to benefit commodities with limited trials. In addition, the portion of the commodity to which MRLs apply (and is analyzed) is enforced on the basis of the commodity as it is traded.

Codex standards and related texts proposed for revocation

1) 178 CXLS FOR 18 PESTICIDES/COMMODITIES COMBINATIONS ARE PROPOSED FOR REVOCATION AS PROVIDED IN REP23/PR54, APPENDIX III.

2) GUIDELINES ON PORTION OF COMMODITIES TO WHICH MRLS APPLY AND WHICH IS ANALYZED (CXG 41-1993)

Mauritius supports revocation of the different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) as proposed by CCPR54 (REP23/PR54-Appendix III) as well as the revocation of Guidelines on Portion of Commodities to Which MRLs Apply and Which is Analyzed (CXG 41-1993). These are CXLs that have been replaced based on review of additional data and their use no longer supported. Furthermore, the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989) should be the single, authoritative reference of food and feed for the establishment of MRLs for pesticides.

Work proposed for discontinuation MRLs FOR DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS OF PESTICIDE/COMMODITY(IES) WITHDRAWN FROM THE STEP PROCEDURE

Mauritius supports the discontinuation of MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) from the Step procedure.

Proposals for new work

1) PRIORITY LIST OF PESTICIDES FOR EVALUATION BY JMPR

2) DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE FOR MONITORING THE STABILITY AND PURITY OF REFERENCE MATERIALS AND RELATED STOCK SOLUTIONS OF PESTICIDES DURING PROLONGED STORAGE

Mauritius supports the approval of the priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR as well as the development of the guidance for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and related stock solutions of pesticides during prolonged storage. There is need for evaluation or continued evaluation of MRLs for the different pesticides/commodity(ties) combinations to facilitate trade in safe food commodities. In addition, the identified compounds meet the prioritization criteria of being registered in some countries and there is proof of both residue and toxicological data submission. Other compounds are listed for periodic review in accordance with the 15-year rule

The proposed guidance on monitoring the stability and purity of RMs will:

a) Allow the extended use of the RMs which are stable with acceptable purity beyond their expiry dates specified by RMPs for robust pesticide residue analysis.

b) Reduce on the budget for laboratories for RMs most countries, especially developing countries.

Other issue for endorsement REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE JOINT CCPR/CCRVDF EWG ON ESTABLISHMENT OF HARMONIZED/SINGLE MRLs FOR COMPOUNDS WITH DUAL USE

Mauritius supports the revision of the ToRs for the Joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG on establishment of harmonized/single MRLs for compounds with dual use. Continued work of the Joint EWG between CCRVDF and CCPR with the suggested Co-Chairs facilitates the establishment of single/harmonized MRLs for edible animal tissues for compounds with dual use with wider participation of Codex Members.

ITEM 4.14: Codex Committee on General Principles

Proposals submitted for approval.

1. REVIEW OF THE PROCEDURES IN SECTION 3 OF THE PM, GUIDELINES FOR SUBSIDIARY BODIES

2. ISSUING OF A CIRCULAR LETTER SOLICITING PROPOSALS FROM MEMBERS ON INCONSISTENCIES IN LANGUAGE, AND SUPERSEDED CONTENT OF THE PM, APART FROM SECTION 3

Mauritius supports the approvals as requested by CCGP. Digitalization of the Codex procedural manual will improve the usability of the manual while making its update easy.

ITEM 8: Application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (SoP)

Mauritius supports the use of footnotes, the option of not extending the guidance document to cover new work proposals and the current framing of Other Legitimate Factors (OLFs) in the draft guidance. It further supports discontinuation of work on the draft guidance pending feedback from Chairpersons of Committees and Members on their experience with the application of the guidance and inclusion of the draft guidance in the existing Codex Chairperson's Handbook and any future handbook for delegates.

The use of footnotes is already an acceptable mechanism in Codex and the Commission already has well established criteria and procedures for considering concerns about OLFs as part of its critical review. The draft guidance reflects current understanding and application of Criteria for the consideration of other factors referred to in the second statement of principle and the Risk Analysis Principles for Application within the framework of Codex Alimentarius. More experience on the use of the guidance will aid in future conclusion and inclusion of the draft guidance in the existing Codex Chairperson's Handbook and any future handbook for delegates will support Members in using and applying the guidance.