

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

Fiftieth Session

Panama, 12 – 16 November 2018

**Points for discussion at the CCFH50 plenary
(prepared by EWG chairs)**

Points for discussion at the CCFH50 plenary

Agenda item 8

CX/FH 18/50/8

iii. Discuss and reach agreement on the scope and the terms used

Question a:

The use of either “Food safety emergency”, “Food safety incident” or “Food safety event” including to what extent the guideline should cover events of contamination of foodstuffs without human illness.

The chairs suggest

- limiting the scope to cover foodborne outbreaks and not situations with contamination of foodstuff without human cases and**
- use this term throughout the document and**
- delete crisis in the headline.**

iii. Discuss and reach agreement on the scope and the terms used

Question c:

Which one of the two definitions of foodborne outbreaks, should be used if any?

Existing definition in CX/FH 18/50/8

Foodborne outbreak (WHO)

- **a) The observed number of cases of a particular disease exceeds the expected number.**
- **b) The occurrence of two or more cases of a similar foodborne disease resulting from the ingestion of a common food.**

Alternative option (US-CDC):

A foodborne outbreak is an incident in which two or more persons experience a similar illness after ingestion of a common food, and epidemiologic analysis implicates the food as the source of the illness

New combined proposal for a definition of foodborne outbreak

[Combined definition

- a) The observed number of cases of a particular disease that may be foodborne exceeds the expected number, or**
- b) The occurrence of two or more cases of a similar foodborne disease resulting from the ingestion of a common food and epidemiologic analysis implicates the food as the source of the illness.]**

[Définition combinée

- a) Le nombre des cas d'une maladie particulière qui peut être causée par l'alimentation, dépasse le nombre attendu, ou**
- b) L'incidence de deux ou plusieurs cas d'une maladie similaire comme résultat de l'ingestion d'un aliment commun ou l'analyse épidémique implique l'aliment comme source de la maladie.]**

[Definición Combinada

- a) a) El número de casos observados de una enfermedad concreta excede el número esperado.**
- b) b) La incidencia de dos o más casos de una enfermedad transmitida por alimentos causada por la ingesta de un alimento común y un análisis epidemiológico implica al alimento como la fuente de la enfermedad.]**

iii. Discuss and reach agreement on the scope and the terms used

Question b:

The use of the term “biological” instead of “(micro)biological” in the headline and the scope.

The chairs suggest that the scope should cover all biological hazards and not only microbiological and to ask FAO/WHO if such a definition exists

If no definition exists the chairs would like to suggest the following:

[Biological hazards are biological agents including microorganisms that have the capacity to cause harmful effects in humans. These include e.g. bacteria, fungi and algae, including their toxins and metabolites, viruses, natural toxins, prions, parasitic protozoa and helminths.]

iii. Discuss and reach agreement on the scope and the terms used

Question d:

The use of “rapid risk assessment” and/or “outbreak assessment”

The chairs will suggest using the term “rapid risk assessment” in the document with the following definition:

[Rapid risk assessment is a risk assessment, based on the information available on the foodborne outbreak, which needs to be carried out urgently to quickly support (provisional) risk management measures and therefore may not always contain all the full development of the four steps of a classical risk assessment.]

[L'évaluation rapide du risque est un évaluation de risque basée sur l'information disponible sur l'intoxication alimentaire qui doit être effectuée d'urgence afin de supporter rapidement des mesures (provisoires) de gestion du risque et qui, comme conséquence, ne contiennent pas toujours les quatre étapes d'un évaluation classique de risque.]

[La evaluación rápida de riesgos es una evaluación de riesgos, basada en la información disponible sobre el brote transmitido por los alimentos, que se debe realizar con urgencia para respaldar rápidamente las medidas de manejo de riesgos (provisionales) y, por lo tanto, no siempre puede contener el desarrollo completo de los cuatro pasos de una evaluación de riesgos clásica.]

iv: Discuss and agree on the use of graphic explanation/diagrams in the guideline e.g. to illustrate the involved authorities and agencies and the networks described

The chairs will suggest preparing an example for the next version of the guidance document to illustrate the connection between national, regional and international network. The working group can then decide whether it is appropriate or not.