



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

53rd Session

(Virtual)

4 – 8 July and 13 July 2022

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

##### MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

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##### A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC)

##### 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC44, 2021)

##### *Standards and related texts adopted at Steps 8 and 5/8 (with omission of Steps 6/7) of the Procedure including consequential amendments<sup>1</sup>*

1. CAC44 adopted the:

- Maximum residue limits (MRLs) for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) for food and feed at Step 5/8 with the revisions to the MRLs for metaflumizone for mammalian fats (excluding milk fats) at 0.15 mg/kg and milk fats at 0.6 mg/kg.
- revised Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989), Class C - Primary feed commodities and corresponding revised *Principles and Guidelines for the Selection of Representative Commodities for the extrapolation of MRLs for Pesticides to Commodity Group* (CXG 84-2012) Table 7 - Representative commodities for Class C, at Step 5/8
- revised *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989) Class D - Processed foods of plant origin; and revised *Principles and Guidelines for the Selection of Representative Commodities for the extrapolation of MRLs for Pesticides to Commodity Group* (CXG 84-2012) Table 8 - Representative commodities for Class D at Step 5/8.

##### *Standards and related texts adopted at Step 5 of the Procedure<sup>2</sup>*

2. CAC44 adopted the Guidelines for compounds of low public health concerns that may be exempted from the establishment of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides (CXLs) or do not give rise to residues at Step 5 and endorsed extension of the timeline for completion until CCPR53.

##### *New Work<sup>3</sup>*

3. CAC44 approved the priority lists of pesticides for evaluation/re-evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) as proposed by CCPR52.

##### *Revocation<sup>4</sup>*

4. CAC44 revoked MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) for food and feed as proposed by CCPR52 except for the CXL on acetamiprid for cardamom that will be retained for one year awaiting clarifications by JMPR at CCPR53.

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<sup>1</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 68 and Appendix III

<sup>2</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 69-71 and Appendix IV

<sup>3</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 72 and Appendix VI

<sup>4</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 73 and Appendix V

**Discontinuation<sup>5</sup>**

5. CAC44 noted discontinuation of work on MRLs in the Step Procedure for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) for food and feed as agreed by CCPR52.

**Joint Electronic Working Group (EWG) between Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) and Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)<sup>6</sup>**

6. CAC44 agreed to establish a Joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG chaired by the United States of America, open to all Codex Members and Observers working with the support of the JECFA, JMPR and Codex Secretariats to address issues related to the establishment of harmonized/single MRLs for compounds with dual use for edible animal tissues.
7. Further information on the establishment of the Joint WG and status of work will be provided under Agenda 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)<sup>7</sup>**

8. CAC44 welcomed the ongoing work on guidance for Chairpersons and Members on the operationalization and the consistent application of the Statements of Principle and encouraged CCEXEC to complete this work in an expeditious manner.

**60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (1963-2023)<sup>8</sup>**

9. CAC44 agreed that the celebration of the Codex 60th Anniversary would be a wonderful occasion to raise awareness about food safety and quality and encouraged all Members and Observers to use the opportunity of the Codex 60th Anniversary to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex and to engage high level political support for Codex work.

**B. MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES AS RELATED TO THE WORK OF CCPR****81<sup>st</sup> Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2021)****Codex and the Pandemic - progress on implementation of recommendations of CAC43 (2020) and CCEXEC80 (2021) and issues for consideration for 2022<sup>9</sup>**

10. CCEXEC81 commended the huge efforts of the Codex family to deliver the 2021 work programme and in moving forward recommended that: Chairpersons and Host Secretariats collaborate closely with the Codex Secretariat in their efforts to establish a meeting schedule that is realistic to implement and ensure adequate time between meetings and that the Codex Secretariat together with Chairpersons and the larger membership further consider how EWGs and/or other inclusive and transparent mechanisms can continue to be strengthened, playing an even more fundamental role in Codex as a flexible mechanism to prepare work and ensure that discussions in subsidiary bodies is only held when there is a need for guidance or the work it is ready for progression in the step process. In addition, CCEXEC81 agreed to establish and lead a process to develop the blueprint for the future of Codex for consideration by CAC on its 60th anniversary in 2023. The process should include communication and outreach to Members and observers to collect general views on what a future Codex should look like.
11. CAC44 adopted measures to address the ongoing challenges caused by the pandemic to ensure that work could continue virtually in Codex committees in 2022 if physical meetings are not possible and made a number of recommendations in this regard including that Rule XI (7) and (8) continue to be interpreted in a manner that includes a virtual setting with respect to sessions of Codex Subsidiary Bodies including CCEXEC and that application of this should take into consideration the criteria<sup>10</sup> outlined by CCEXEC80.

**New food sources and production systems: need for Codex attention and guidance<sup>11</sup>**

12. CCEXEC81 agreed to investigate potential mechanisms to address cross-cutting, overarching, and emerging issues in Codex such as new food sources and production systems.

<sup>5</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 74 and Appendix VII

<sup>6</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 64-66

<sup>7</sup> REP21/CAC44, paras. 13-14, REP21/EXEC81, paras. 92-99, REP21/EXEC80, paras. 37-43

<sup>8</sup> REP21/CAC44, para. 150

<sup>9</sup> REP21/EXEC81, paras. 83-85; REP21/CAC44, para. 12

<sup>10</sup> REP21/EXEC80, para. 35 (iv)

<sup>11</sup> REP21/EXEC81, para. 110 (ii)

**Monitoring the use and impact of Codex standards<sup>12</sup>**

13. In line with Goal 3 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (Increase recognition and use of Codex Standards), the Codex Secretariat in consultation with the FAO and WHO Evaluation Offices has initiated a project to identify, and in due course implement, an approach to monitor the use and impact of Codex standards. Following the initial review and analysis phase, a proposal for a phased approach will be presented for consideration by CCEXEC82 (2022).

**41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS41, 2021)*****Review/update of methods of analysis in the General Standard for Methods of Analysis and Sampling<sup>13</sup>***

14. CCMAS41 confirmed its continued liaison with other Codex committees on the use of the *General Standard on Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) as the single reference for methods of analysis and sampling.

***Revision of the General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004)<sup>14</sup>***

15. CCMAS41 agreed to inform other relevant Codex Committees of the ongoing work on the revision of the *General Guidelines on Sampling*.

**25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF25, 2021)<sup>15</sup>*****Harmonized definition for edible offal***

16. CCRVDF25 agreed to forward the amended definition of edible offal for inclusion in the Glossary of Terms and Definitions (CXA 5-1993) to CAC44 for adoption. CAC44 adopted this decision.

***Continue collaboration with CCPR on issues pertaining to harmonization of edible animal tissues***

17. CCRVDF25 agreed to re-establish the EWG, chaired by Kenya, and co-chaired by New Zealand, to work in parallel with the CCPR/EWG on the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed on issues pertaining to harmonization of edible animal tissues including edible offal.
18. Issues relating to collaboration between CCPR and CCRVDF on edible animal tissues including edible offal will be further discussed under Agenda Item 7(d).

**Recommendations for endorsement by CCPR**

19. CCPR is invited to:
- (i) note that information provided in paragraphs 6, 16-17 will be considered under Agenda Items 7(d) and 8.
  - (ii) note the information provided in paragraphs 1-5, 8-15 and for:
    - a. the 60th anniversary, encourage members and observers to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex and to engage high level political support for Codex work.
    - b. the ongoing/upcoming discussion in CCEXEC on the operationalization of the SoP; the future of Codex and on how to address cross-cutting, overarching, and emerging issues in Codex; and monitoring the use of Codex standards, encourage members and observers to actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions in CCEXEC through their regional coordinators and/or by providing replies to relevant circular letters to be distributed in this regard.

<sup>12</sup> REP21/EXEC81, para. 90; REP21/CAC44, para.107

<sup>13</sup> REP21/MAS41, para. 6

<sup>14</sup> REP21/MAS41, para. 110 (iv)

<sup>15</sup> REP21/RVDF25, para. 116, Appendix IV