

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 9.2

CX/RVDF 23/26/10

January 2023

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

26th Session

13-17 February 2023

Portland, Oregon, United States of America

COORDINATION OR WORK BETWEEN

THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES (CCPR) AND

THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS (CCRVDF)

WORK IN PARALLEL ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO HARMONIZATION OF EDIBLE OFFAL

(Prepared by Kenya as Chair of the Electronic Working Group)

Background

1. The 25th session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) discussed and adopted the proposed definition of edible offal and recommended inclusion in the *Glossary of Terms and Definitions* (CXA 5-1993) to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for adoption. CCRVDF25 further recommended that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) adopts the same definition for consistency and facilitation of establishment of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for compounds with dual purposes.¹ CAC44 (2022) adopted the definition as proposed by CCRVDF25.² Subsequently, CCPR53³ and CAC45 agreed and adopted respectively the same definition for edible offal for inclusion in the *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989). Consequently, the definition for edible offal is now harmonized between CCPR and CCRVDF.
2. CCRVDF25 also agreed to re-establish the Electronic Working Group (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 offal (Recommendations 3 to 7 of CX/RVDF 20/25/9).⁴
Recommendation 3: Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed – food of animal origin
Recommendations 4-6: Extrapolation of MRLs for edible offal
3. CCRVDF25 noted that Recommendations 3-6 related to the Classification and extrapolation of MRLs were inter-related and was part of the further collaborative work between CCRVDF and CCPR that could be carried out in parallel between the CCRVDF/EWG on edible offal and the CCPR/EWG on the revision of the *Classification of Food and Feed*.
4. It was further noted that these recommendations would not preclude CCRVDF from continuing to develop MRLs for the four main tissues “muscle”, “kidney”, “liver” and “fat” in line with established practice in CCRVDF.
5. CCRVDF25 further agreed⁵ on the approach to extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs to one or more species which was adopted⁶ by CAC44 for inclusion in the *Risk Analysis Principles applied by CCRVDF*. The Committee further agreed⁷ that the EWG on Extrapolation should also develop a suitable approach for the extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs for offal tissues (see also Agenda Item 7.2).

¹ REP21/RVDF25, paras. 106-116, App IV

² REP21/CAC44, para. 61, App. III

³ REP22/PR53, paras. 179 - 188, App. VIII

⁴ REP21/RVDF25, para. 116(iii)

⁵ REP21/RVDF25, paras. 88-105, App. III

⁶ REP21/CAC44, paras. 35, 36(ii), App. II

⁷ REP21/RVDF25, para. 150(iii & vi)

Recommendation 7: Harmonization of food descriptors between JECFA and JMPR

6. With regard to harmonized food descriptors to be used by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), the JECFA Secretariat reminded CCRVDF that it was actually a request from JECFA/JMPR to the EWG to define the terms “fat”, “fat with skin”, “fat/skin”, and “skin” and that it was more a risk management responsibility to provide descriptors rather than that of risk assessors, and therefore descriptors were still needed.
7. CCPR53 (2022) considered and agreed to harmonize the definition of “fat”, “meat” and “muscle” with that of JECFA/CCRVDF as proposed by the Joint JECFA/JMPR Working Group including the definition for the portion of the commodity to which MRLs apply and which is analyzed for fat and muscle.³ These definitions were adopted by CAC45 for inclusion in the *Classification of Food and Feed*. Consequently, the definitions for these tissues are now harmonized between CCPR and CCRVDF.

Status of the EWG

8. The EWG achieved its initial objective of developing a definition of edible offal tissues, which has formally been incorporated into the *Glossary of Terms and Definitions*.
9. The EWG was re-established to work in parallel with the CCPR/EWG-Classification on issues pertaining to harmonization of edible offal to address the recommendations 3-7 contained in the report CX/RVDF 20/25/9. However, the EWG has been dormant partially due to change in personnel in Kenya being the Chair of this EWG, which precipitated a delay in convening discussions to facilitate progress.
10. Further, on review of the Recommendations 3-6 especially the issue related to exploring the possibility of a mechanism for consolidation of edible offal hierarchical classification, the CCRVDF/EWG on Extrapolation would be the appropriate forum to work with the CCPR/EWG on the revision of the *Classification of Food and Feed*. Considering that any mechanism that would be agreed upon will have an implication on the criteria that will be developed and used for extrapolation of edible offal MRLs by the CCRVDF EWG.
11. Regarding Recommendation 7, the comments by EWG members recommending that CCRVDF seeking guidance from JECFA on appropriate descriptors and the response from JECFA, which placed the responsibility on the Committee, leaves the matter in limbo.

Recommendations: Possible ways forward

12. CCRVDF:
 - i. could consider reviewing the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the CCRVDF/EWG on Extrapolation to work closely with the CCPR/EWG on Classification to explore the possibility of developing a mechanism for consolidation of edible offal hierarchical classification in the *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989) while considering that different extrapolation rules would apply for residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs for edible animal tissues (including offal) and to other food animal species.
 - ii. should reconsider and advise how the matter related to Recommendation 7 should be addressed.
 - iii. could also consider terminating the EWG on edible offal having concluded its primary task of developing a harmonized definition of edible offal.