

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1 and 9.2

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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS
Fifth Session
Virtual, 20 - 29 April 2021**

Comments from Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia,
Costa Rica, Perú, Venezuela, Guyana and Cuba

DISCUSSION ON PARAMETERS AT THE VARIOUS DRAFT STANDARDS THAT ARE OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN.

Agenda Item 2, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1 and 9.2

We would like to reassess the worries expressed at CAC 42, as reported on Paragraph 2.1 of CX/SCH 21/5/2:

“Parameter on mammalian excreta

2.1 The concern expressed by a delegation, that the five draft standards on spices and culinary herbs included parameters such as mammalian excreta, visible mould formation and insect fragments that were of public health concern”.

From our perspective, the values of the infestation provisions (e.g., mammalian excreta, visible mould formation, insect fragments etc.) proposed by member countries at the various Draft Standards resembles values that are too high for the suggested analytical methods, taking into consideration, that those methods are based on visual examination (naked eye) only, and taking into account, that the proposed analysis methodologies are type IV, which corresponds to provisional methods that can be used to control the quality of the products.

Based on this, we would like to recommend that the Committee requests scientific advice from FAO and WHO to access and verify the values proposed in the different Draft Standards. The mandate of the proposed application should be to clarify whether the proposed values comply with the recommended maximum limits on visual examination, allowing better support of the proposed values.