

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 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 5

MAS/37 CRD/3
Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

37th Session

Budapest, Hungary, 22 – 26 February 2016

DISCUSSION PAPER ON CRITERIA APPROACH FOR METHODS WHICH USE A 'SUM OF COMPONENTS'

(Report of the in-session working group)

On Sunday 21st February 2016 the Sum of Components WG met during the 37th Session of CCMAS to discuss, in general terms, work undertaken thus far with a view to defining the future direction of this initiative.

The WG chair provided an overview of progress made thus far and sought comments from the WG members as to how best to progress.

A number of delegations and observers participated in the discussion where the following was agreed:

- 1) Document CX/MAS 16/37/5 has shown the issue to be complex where decisions on how to convert MLs or methods of analysis involving a sum of components approach into method performance criteria need to be made on a case by case basis. As such the inclusion of detailed guidance within the Codex Procedural Manual was considered inappropriate.
- 2) The above notwithstanding, a simply statement should to be included within the Procedural Manual to state that the current approaches recommended to convert MLs or methods of analysis into method performance criteria may not always be applicable to MLs or methods that rely upon a sum of components.
- 3) Although Document CX/MAS 16/37/5 has used current Codex MLs and methods of analysis to help demonstrate potential options and issues, the aim of this work **is not** to develop method performance criteria for current Codex specifications retrospectively.
- 4) The current paper does not address all relevant issues. For example, TEFs, analyte weighting, or situations where MLs involve both a single component and a sum of components analysis, etc... These issues need to be addressed. the full cooperation
- 5) If taken forward, future work should take into consideration practical examples where MLs or methods of analysis which involve sum of component approach have already been successfully converted into method performance criteria (e.g. fumonisins and shellfish toxins).
- 6) Whilst some delegations and trade organisations questioned the need for this work to continue it was generally agreed by the WG that this work should continue but the mechanism for progression

will depend upon a decision as to whether progression is based upon the development of a further discussion document or whether work should continue more formally as a new work item proposal for adoption within the Codex step-wise procedure.

- 7) If work is taken further forward then this will need to be done with eWG members providing practical examples and further advice on key areas.
- 8) If re-established, and using document CX/MAS 16/37/5 as a foundation, the provisional mandate of the eWG could be as follows:-
 - a) Develop text for future inclusion within the Codex Procedural Manual to explain that the current procedures laid down with in Codex Procedural Manual for converting MLs and methods of analysis into method performance criteria might not be suitable, in all cases, for those MLs or methods that involve a sum of components approach.
 - b) The eWG will concentrate on chemical methods of analysis only.
 - c) Where appropriate, members of the eWG will provide practical examples of instances where limits or methods of analysis involving a sum of component approach (not restricted to those solely within the Codex framework) have already been transformed into method performance criteria.
 - d) The eWG will also, as part of a general horizon scanning initiative, provide advice as to where they consider any future MLs or methods of analysis that involve a sum of components approach might arise.
 - e) The eWG will further develop a compendium of possible options for converting MLs or methods of analysis that involve a sum of components approaches into method performance criteria. This will also include examples of where approaches have already been successfully undertaken.