

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Agenda Item 7

CX/MAS 16/37/7-Add.2

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS SAMPLING

Thirty-seventhth Session

Budapest, Hungary, 22 – 26 February 2016

PROPOSAL FOR AN INTRODUCTORY TEXT / PREAMBLE TO CODEX STAN 234-1999

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

Proposed introductory text for the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CODEX STAN 234-1999)

Background

1. At the 36th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS36), when discussing the review and update of methods of analysis, there was support for a single reference for methods of analysis, i.e. CODEX STAN 234-1999. Noting the support for a single reference, the Secretariat proposed that the current CODEX STAN 234-1999 be amended to the normal format for a standard, i.e. to include a preamble and other relevant information as to the scope and use of the Standard. CCMAS36 agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to prepare a proposal for such a preamble and introductory text. (REP15/MAS, paragraphs 102 - 113).

2. At the same time, while considering the typing of the biological methods for the determination of biotoxins, it was noted that all Codex methods, including Type IV methods, could be used for control, inspection and regulation (Principles for the establishment of methods of analysis, and when parties so agreed, for resolution of disputes (*Guidelines for Settling of Disputes on Analytical (Test) Results*) (CAC/GL 70-2009) that these aspects would be considered in the proposed preamble for CODEX STAN 234. (REP15/MAS, paragraph 56).

Discussion

3. The proposed introductory text is provided in Appendix I and provides a scope, use of the standard and appropriate definitions.

4. The Secretariat has developed introductory texts for consideration by the Committee and has focused on the aim of the list of recommended methods, how the Standard should be used in order to address the aspects raised above in paragraph 2; and definitions to clarify the Typing of the methods. Some of the text and definitions have been taken from the Procedural Manual as developed for use by CCMAS.

5. In view of the ongoing discussions on the review and update of methods (CX/MAS 16/37/7 and 7 Add.1), in particular the need to still take a decision on the format for the document (CX/MAS 16/37/7, paragraph 16), it might be premature to decide on the introductory text (preamble) at this time. The proposal in Appendix I could however serve as a starting point for further discussion.

Recommendations

6. The Committee is invited to consider the proposed introductory text (Appendix I) taking into account the point raised under paragraph 5.

Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CODEX STAN 234-1999)**Proposed draft introductory text****INTRODUCTION**

This Standard is intended to provide a single authoritative reference to competent national and/or regional authorities to select methods of analysis and sampling, as appropriate for their purpose, which are recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

For the actual use of the methods covered by the Standard, it is recommended that this Standard should be read in conjunction with the related commodity standards and the *Guidelines on Sampling* (CAC/GL 50-2004).

In case of disputes of analytical results, guidance is given in the *Guidelines for Settling Disputes over Analytical (Test) Results* (CAC/GL 70-2009), which among others, include guidance on the use of methods of analysis.

1. Scope

The methods are primarily intended as international methods for the verification of provisions in Codex standards. They should be used for reference, in calibration of methods in use or introduced for routine examination and control purposes.

2. Typing**[2.1 Procedures of endorsement for methods of analysis]****2.2 Type of methods of analysis**

Defining methods (Type I) - a method which determines a value that can only be arrived at in terms of the method per se and serves by definition as the only method for establishing the accepted value of the item measured.

Reference methods (Type II) - a method designated Reference Method where Type I methods do not apply. It should be selected from Type III methods and is recommended for use in cases of dispute and for calibration purposes.

Alternative approved methods (Type III) – a method which meets the criteria¹ required by the Codex ~~Alimentarius Commission~~ ~~Committee on methods of Analysis and Sampling~~ for methods that may be used for control, inspection or regulatory purposes.

Tentative Method (Type IV) – a method which has been used traditionally or else has been recently introduced but for which the criteria¹ required for acceptance by the Codex ~~Alimentarius Commission~~ ~~Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling~~ have not yet been determined.

Format of the Standard

The Standard contains the following elements:

The name of the commodity, the provision to which the method applies, the method by reference, the principle of the method and the Type.

[to be further developed]

¹ Refer to the *Principles for the Establishment of Codex Methods of Analysis: General Criteria for Selection of Methods of Analysis* (Codex Alimentarius Commission, Procedural Manual).