

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 6

MAS/38 CRD/4

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS SAMPLING

Thirty-eighth Session
Budapest, Hungary, 8 – 12 May 2017

REVIEW AND UPDATE OF METHODS IN CODEX STAN 234-1999

The Physical Working Group on the review and update of CODEX STAN 234-1999 was held on Sunday, 7 May 2017, prior to the 38th Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

The pWG chair provided an overview of the key points discussed by the eWG regarding the Preamble, Codex General Methods, the structure of the new Codex Stan 234-1999 and the workable packages.

The importance of having annexes with a harmonized list of commodities, provisions and principles of the methods was highlighted in order to give guidance to the Commodities Committees and keep the information in the CODEX STAN 234-1999 consistent.

CRD 3 was presented incorporating the comments from the CX/MAS 17/38/6 Add1, CRD 5, CRD 9, CRD 14 and CRD 15.

A number of delegations and observers participated in the discussion. There was a general agreement on the following:

- 1) The importance of having a searchable database with information specific to CCMAS to manage the updating process, such as year of endorsement and the Codex Committee responsible for the Standard and/or provision and a general interface with the information of the methods. In the meanwhile, while there is no database available, CCMAS can work with an informative document to track the updating process.
- 2) There was no consensus to have a definition and a specific section to “Codex General Methods”. Several participants believe these methods should be mentioned for each commodity where they are applicable, but another wants to maintain the document as it is now and another to include the list of general methods as a guide. At this stage, the definition and the specific section to “Codex General Methods” will not be discussed.
- 3) The general methods, including the ones from CODEX STAN 228-2001 General Methods of Analysis for Contaminants, CODEX STAN 231-2001 General Methods for the Detection of Irradiated Foods, CODEX STAN 239-2001 General Methods of Analysis for Food Additives and methods for “all foods” should be revised to identify each of the matrices for which they are applicable.
- 4) The proposed structure has the following information in Section I: the name of the commodity, the provision to which the methods apply, Codex Standard to which the method is directed, identification of the method, Method of Analysis Principle, type of analytical method and the matrices for which the method was validated. The new structure will present links connecting the method with the respective Codex Stan, method performance criteria (section II) and a complete description of methods (section III).
- 5) The project document (Appendix I to this report) should be submitted to CAC to start new work on the Preamble and the new structure of CODEX STAN 234-1999.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is invited to:

consider this report and to submit the project document to CAC for approval.

Continue the review of CODEX STAN 234 with the current structure. As agreement is reached on the changes to the methods these can be transferred to the new structure.

PROJECT DOCUMENT

PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON THE NEW FORMAT TO CODEX STAN 234-1999 RECOMMENDED METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

1. Purpose and scope of the proposed standard

The purpose of the proposed new work is to amend CODEX STAN 234-1999 Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling to the normal format for a standard, including a preamble and other relevant information, scope and use of the Standard.

2. Relevance and timeliness

The methods of analysis listed in Codex standards are primarily intended as methods for the verification of provisions in Codex standards. In this context, it is critical to keep updating the methods of analysis in a single document or a single database, which would allow a simplified and effective search for method as well as a permanent and dynamic revision system. The CCMAS supported CODEX STAN 234 as a single reference for methods of analysis and proposed that CODEX STAN 234 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. The General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995) or the General Standard for Food Additives (CODEX STAN 192-1995) could be used as examples for the amendment.

3. The main aspects to be covered

A number of changes will be considered such as the inclusion of a preamble, scope and other relevant information to the use of the standard as well as establishing a structure with all necessary information and a format that allows cross references with commodities standards, and with the sections that present methods performance criteria and a full description of the methods.

4. An assessment against the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*

General Criterion: Consumer protection from the view of health, food safety, ensuring fair practices in food trade and taking into account the identified needs of developing countries.

The proposed work falls under the general criterion for establishment of work priorities, because the use of the Code will strengthen protection of consumers by ensuring food safety. This work also seeks to promote fair practices in food trade taking into account the identified needs of developing countries.

The proposed work is directed primarily to provide a trusted source of information regarding methods of analysis in a single document or a single database, which would allow the verification of provisions in Codex standards.

Criteria applicable to general subjects:

a) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade:

It is covered by the preceding paragraph.

b) Scope of work and establishment of priorities between the various sections of work:

See above section on purpose and scope.

c) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field and/or suggested by the relevant international intergovernmental body(ies):

No other similar work has been undertaken by other international organizations.

d) Amenability of the subject of the proposal to standardisation:

It is amenable to standardization since the Codex Stan 234-1999 is already adopted, and the revisions will be simply to streamline information and make it readily available. Thus, there should be no problem with standardization.

e) Consideration of the global magnitude of the problem or issue:

It is covered by the preceding paragraph.

5. Relevance to Codex strategic objectives

The proposed work falls under 3 Codex Strategic Goals:

Strategic goal 1. Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues: the standard intents to verify the provisions in Codex standards.

Strategic goal 2. Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards: this work will help in risk management activities, providing a single source of methods of analysis in case of dispute and for inspection and control program.

Strategic goal 4. Implement effective and efficient work management system and practices: making readily available a single trusted source of Methods of Analysis.

6. Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents

This standard will build on the Procedure Manual and the CODEX STAN 234-1999 Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling

7. Identification of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice

Additional scientific advice is not necessary at this moment.

8. Identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies so that this can be planned for

There is no need for additional technical input from external bodies.

9. Proposed timeline for completion of the new work, including the start date, the proposed date for adoption at Step 5, and the proposed date for adoption by the Commission; the timeframe for developing a standard should normally not exceed five years

Work to start in 2018 with adoption at Step 5 and final adoption in 2020.