

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 13

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-sixth Session, FAO Headquarters, Rome, 30 June – 7 July 2003

MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS OF CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

This paper is divided into two parts:

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| Annex 1 | Matters referred to the Commission for consideration and decision |
| Annex 2 | Matters arising from reports of Regional Coordinating Committees |

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MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISION

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS)

Maximum Level for Lead in Milk and Milk Fat

- Revision of footnote to maximum level for lead in milk (ALINORM 03/12A, para. 148)¹

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Interim MRLs

- In view of the lengthy process required for the elaboration of the MRLs for newly introduced, often safer, pesticides, procedure was proposed to use national MRLs as interim Codex MRLs. The proposed Procedure requires the Committee to notify the Commission about the proposed Interim (Step 8 (I)) MRLs, however it does not require the adoption of these MRLs itself. The Commission could only reject the proposed MRLs. Therefore the Committee is seeking advice on the proposed procedure of the elaboration of Interim MRLs (ALINORM 03/24A, paras 176-186)

Reduction of an Extraneous Burden from the Workload of JMPR

- In order to reduce an extraneous burden from the workload of JMPR, it was proposed that the JMPR should restrict its review of environmental fate to those areas specifically related to the estimation of dietary exposure and the estimation of MRLs. Therefore the Committee agreed to propose that the JMPR should proceed with consideration of environmental fate and to focus on those aspects that were most relevant to MRL setting (ALINORM 03/24A, paras 210-213)

CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Dihydrostreptomycin/Streptomycin

- Revision of MRLs for Dihydrostreptomycin / Streptomycin in cow's milk adopted by the 24th CAC (ALINORM 03/31A, para 25)

Oxytetracycline, Phoxim, Ivermectin, Lincomycin, Cyhalothrin, Thiamphenicol

- Revision of MRLs for Oxytetracycline in fish tissue submitted by the 13th CCRVDF for final adoption at Step 8 (ALINORM 03/31, Appendix II) as full MRL (ALINORM 03/31A, para 35)
- Revision of MRLs for Phoxim in pig and sheep tissues submitted by the 13th CCRVDF for final adoption at Step 8 (ALINORM 03/31, Appendix II) as full MRLs (ALINORM 03/31A, para 46)
- Return Draft Temporary MRLs for Phoxim in cattle tissues and cow's milk (ALINORM 03/31, Appendix II) to step 6 pending the JECFA re-evaluation (ALINORM 03/31A, para 46)
- Revision of MRLs for Ivermectin in cow's milk submitted by the 13th CCRVDF for final adoption for Ivermectin in cow's milk at Step 5/8 (ALINORM 03/31, Appendix III) as full MRL (ALINORM 03/31A, para 19)
- Revision of MRLs for Lincomycin in pig and chicken tissues and in cow's milk submitted by the 13th CCRVDF for final adoption as recommended by 58th JECFA (WHO TRS 911) (ALINORM 03/31A, para 29).
- Discontinue work on elaboration of Draft MRLs for Lincomycin in cattle and sheep tissues (ALINORM 03/31A, para 29)

¹ Secretariat note: This decision implies an amendment to an existing Codex Standard: Maximum Levels for Lead (CODEX STAN 230-2001); the footnote to the maximum level for lead in milk should be revised as "a concentration factor applies to partially or wholly dehydrated milk" while the the level of 0.02 mg/kg for lead in milk should be maintained.

- Return Temporary MRLs for Cyhalothrin (*ALINORM 03/31, Appendix III*) to step 6 pending further re-consideration by JECFA (*ALINORM 03/31A, para 40*).
- Discontinue work on elaboration of Draft MRLs for Thiamphenicol (*ALINORM 03/31A, para 59*)

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods

- Seek the advice of the Commission as to the best way to consider the Proposed Draft Revised Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods. (*ALINORM 03/27, para 88*)
- Seek the advice of the Commission regarding clarification on the implications in international trade of Codex texts that were "*to provide background information and guidance*" as indicated in Section 1 - Objective of this Code. (*ALINORM 03/27, para 86*)

Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Ginseng

- Discontinue work on the elaboration of the proposed draft Codex Standard for Ginseng (*ALINORM 03/27, para 94*)
- Seek the advice of the Commission as to which Codex Committee might have the expertise to undertake the consideration of this product in its programme of work (e.g. CCNSFDU) (*ALINORM 03/27, paras. 90 - 94*)

Priority List for the Standardization of Processed Fruits and Vegetables: Fermented Soybean Paste (Doenjang) and Hot Pepper Fermented Soybean Paste (Gochujang)

- Seek the advice of the Commission as to whether or not a proposal to develop Codex standards for fermented soybean paste (doenjang) and hot pepper fermented soybean paste (gochujang) might be referred to another Codex Committee that could better address the standardization of these products in view of the heavy list of products to be discussed in future sessions, the Terms of Reference of the Committee and its mandate from the Commission to update and simplify the existing individual Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables contained in Volume 5A (*ALINORM 03/27, paras. 102-108*)
- Seek the advice of the Commission on more efficient ways of dealing with proposals for new work (*ALINORM 03/27, paras. 102-108*)

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Utilization and Promotion of Quality Assurance Systems to Meet Requirements in Relation to Food

- Discontinue work on the elaboration of the proposed draft guidelines for the utilization and promotion of Quality Assurance Systems to meet Requirements in Relation to Food (*ALINORM 03/30A, para 20*)

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

Draft List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes and the Proposed Draft List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes in the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk

- Request through the Commission to ask JECFA to establish criteria for inclusion of substances in the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes and to evaluate substances proposed in the Proposed Draft List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes (*ALINORM 03/17, paras 78-79*)

AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICES

Proposed Draft Revised Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices

- Discontinue work on the revision of the Proposed Draft Revised Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices (ALINORM 03/39A, paras. 90-92)

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Country of Origin Labelling

- Decision to discontinue work on labelling of country of origin. New work proposed in 2001 was not accepted by CCEXEC and CCFL was asked to consider the matter further (ALINORM 03/22A, paras. 114-119)

THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Proposed Draft Standard for Live and Processed Bivalve Molluscs

- Request to FAO and WHO for scientific advice on biotoxins, especially concerning levels in bivalve molluscs, in relation with the development of the Proposed Draft Standard for Live and Processed Bivalve Molluscs (ALINORM 03/18, para. 92)

MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS OF REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES

REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

- Recommended that FAO and WHO organize an Expert Consultation on functional foods and include Asian experts among those invited to participate (ALINORM 03/15, para 93).
- Recommended that FAO and WHO jointly organize an Asian Forum of Food Safety Regulators in 2003: (ALINORM 03/15, para 157)

REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

- Recommended that the Committee on Food Hygiene should consider the opportunity of revising the *Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by Use of the Lactoperoxidase System (CAC/GL 13-1991)*, and that a new risk assessment should be undertaken by JECFA. (ALINORM 03/19, para 8)
- Proposal to discontinue work on the revision of the Regional Standard (Europe) for Mayonnaise (ALINORM 03/19, para. 9).

REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

- Supported the decisions of the 50th Session of Executive Committee and views expressed by the Delegation of Uganda regarding the Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by the Lactoperoxidase System that until uncertainties related to the process were resolved the restrictions on the use of this system should be maintained (ALINORM 03/28, paras 16-17)

REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC)

- Recommended that the further reviews by JECFA of the chemicals used and the system itself and by the Codex Committee of Food Hygiene of the microbiological safety of the final product should be concluded before proceeding any further in the revision of *the Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by the Lactoperoxidase System* (ALINORM 03/32, para. 12)

REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND CARRIBBEAN

- Recognized that an early risk assessment of the lactoperoxidase system for the preservation of raw milk should be undertaken by JECFA to ensure an updated scientific basis to evaluate its safety while noting that in tropical countries this system was used in accordance with the Codex Guidelines for the Preservation of Raw Milk by the Lactoperoxidase System (ALINORM 03/36, paras. 15-16)
- Noted Other Matters of Interest from FAO and WHO with particular regard to the steps to be undertaken to strengthen scientific advice to Codex and governments and the establishment of JEMRA at the same level as JECFA and JMPR (ALINORM 03/36, paras. 24-28)