

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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**Agenda Item 2**

**CAC/44 CRD/21**  
**Original Language Only**

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty-fourth Session

#### *Comments of HealthforAnimals*

AGENDA ITEM 2: Related to the item draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride

HealthforAnimals supports the advancement of the proposed draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride in the Codex Step Procedure. The scientific risk assessment has been completed by JECFA and agreed upon by consensus in the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF).

It is worth noting that the Critical Review Part II, (CX/EXEC 21/81/2 Add.1), a preparatory document for the Eighty-first Session of CCEXEC, noted the following. "CCRVDF24 (2018) expressed a clear consensus that the JECFA risk assessment for zilpaterol HCl was robust and complete, and that the proposed MRLs posed no human health concerns." And "During CCRVDF25, there continued to be a broad consensus regarding the safety of the zilpaterol MRLs".

HealthforAnimals supports the Codex Statements of Principles. Respecting Codex procedure is not only important for the future of the CCRVDF, but for every Codex committee committed to establishing science-based standards. If there is no predictability in the standard-setting process, it disincentivizes innovative companies from putting forward standards for JECFA review and, as a result, leaves many countries without a global standard to ensure safe food and fair trade.

It is now time to progress the standard in the Codex procedure and advance the draft MRLs. Advancing the standard will further allow a constructive and meaningful discussion between all parties consistent with Codex procedures.

HealthforAnimals encourages members that have concerns that are not other legitimate factors, to utilize options consistent with the Codex Statements of Principle (such as principle 4 which allows for a reservation). By every Codex member adhering to the Statements of Principle, it will allow the standard to continue in the Codex process and ultimately lead to final adoption for those countries who need to have the standard to ensure safe food and fair trade.