

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

CX/MAS 23/42/2 Add.1  
ENGLISH ONLY  
June 2023

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

42<sup>nd</sup> Session  
13-16 June 2023 (physical plenary meeting)  
20 June 2023 (virtual report adoption)

### MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

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##### MATTER FOR ACTION

##### Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL47, 2023)

##### *Food allergen labelling – precautionary allergen labelling<sup>1</sup>*

CCFL is currently revising the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-198) by updating the list of allergens that should be declared on a food label. CCFL is also developing guidance on precautionary allergen labelling. In doing the so, questions of suitable analytical methods have come up.

CCFL47 agreed to seek advice on standardized analytical methods and sampling from CCMAS as this would ensure that reliable and standardized methods are used for allergen risk assessment in food.

CCMAS is requested to:

- i. recommend suitable analytical methods and guidance on their validation and applications including sampling plans for determining allergenic protein in foods, in particular:
  - o The methods should detect and quantify unintended allergen presence (UAP) in foods from cross contact with detection and quantification limits (LOD and LOQ) suitable to determine if UAP is above or below the action levels established by the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation for priority allergens for intakes of foods from 10 g to 1000 g.
  - o The analytic methods and sampling plans are needed to enable food business operators to do risk assessment to determine if UAP can be controlled below the specified action level for each allergenic food. (*Risk Assessment of Food Allergens Part 2: Review and Establish Threshold Levels in Foods for the Priority Allergens*)<sup>2</sup>. Priority allergens and the finalized action levels are listed in table 11 of the above report at the following link:  
<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2946en>.
  - o CCMAS should take into account the recommendations of the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation regarding requirements for analytical methodologies.
  - o CCMAS should also recommend suitable analytical methods to be determined if amounts of allergenic food proteins have been removed sufficiently by processing to exempt foods from allergen declaration at action levels above divided by 30<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> REP23/FL, paras 59 and 61 (still to be published)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2946en>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3825en/cc3825en.pdf>