



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

**44th Session**

**Virtual**

**5 – 8 May and 14 May 2025**

**MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR  
ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

**A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

***Matters for information***

**Specific matters**

Standards and related texts adopted and revoked by the Commission<sup>1</sup>

1. CAC47 (2024) adopted:
  - i. methods of analysis and performance criteria for inclusion in the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999) with editorial corrections to the principle for the entries for volatile oils in small cardamom, allspice, juniper berry and star anise and any other relevant spices as follows: “Calculation from moisture and volatile oils, distillation and distillation”; and
  - ii. the amended sampling plan for methylmercury in fish for inclusion in the *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed* (CXS 193-1995).
2. CAC47 revoked the *General methods for the detection of irradiated foods* (CXS 231-2001) and methods of analysis for provisions in relevant commodity standards and in CXS 234-1999 consequential to the adoption of methods of analysis and performance criteria.

Other issues

3. CCEXEC86 (2024) noted that the CCMAS had recommended the methods for the determination of 1,2 - diglycerides (DAGs) and Pyropheophytin “a” (PPP) as being fit-for-purpose for data generation to aid the further work of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO), and these methods together with their corresponding footnote would not be included in the CXS 234-1999 since there were no related provisions in the *Standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils* (CXS 33-1981).<sup>2</sup>
4. CAC47 noted the information provided by the Codex Secretariat that when CCMAS reviewed the methods of analysis for provisions in standards for cereals, pulses and legumes, it had noted that further information would be needed on the intent of the ashing temperatures in several standards before it could go ahead with endorsing relevant methods of analysis. The Codex Secretariat explained that together with the Chairperson of CCMAS and the host secretariat for the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL), it was looking to find a solution for CCMAS to endorse the relevant methods of analysis and that CAC could thereafter note that work in this regard was ongoing.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> REP24/CAC, paras 90, 96, Appendices II and IV

<sup>2</sup> REP24/EXEC1, para 17

<sup>3</sup> REP24/CAC, para 170

## General matters

### The model for future Codex work<sup>4</sup>

5. CCEXEC86:
- i. noted that as the format of meetings continues to evolve, the document CX/EXEC 24/86/3 (Model for future Codex work) should be retained as a reference document, and periodic updates on the evolution of working mechanisms and identification of any challenges encountered that may require further consideration by CCEXEC, CAC or the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) should be provided through a working document prepared by the Codex Secretariat;
  - ii. noted the importance of working groups in progressing the work of Codex between sessions, and recommended that the Codex Secretariat provide clarity on the use of virtual tools therein including a clear distinction between virtual working group meetings and webinars, which should then be established and consistently applied;
  - iii. encouraged more Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups to ensure their sustainability and inclusiveness, while recognizing the challenges these Members may face, and further encouraged the Codex Secretariat and experienced working group chairs to proactively seek engagement of other Members and provide guidance and support; and
  - iv. reminded Codex committees of the importance of good work management practices and prioritization of work to avoid excessive establishment of Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) and the related burden on all concerned and ensure that agenda items can be adequately discussed within the available plenary session time.

### Potential webcasting of the Executive Committee<sup>5</sup>

6. CAC47 discussed on the potential webcasting of the CCEXEC, and did not agree to change the current practice of CCEXEC meetings.

### Guidelines for new work proposals<sup>6</sup>

7. CCEXEC87 (2024) welcomed the Codex Secretariat's plans to develop practical guidelines for Members on the development of new work proposals and proposed that:
- i. the guidelines should encourage development of group commodity standards and the drafting of commodity standards so as to facilitate future enlargement of their scope by adding similar products, and a review of standards that may have been developed by other organizations for commodities for which there is established international trade; and
  - ii. the Codex Secretariat engages with Members through the forthcoming FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to build awareness of the development of these guidelines, and also the Handbook on EWGs, and seek input on issues that Members would wish to see included in these guidelines.

8. CAC47 welcomed the publication of *the Codex EWGs handbook*<sup>7</sup> and encouraged its use.

### Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031<sup>8</sup>

9. CAC47 adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 as contained in Appendix IX of REP24/CAC and noted that the Codex Secretariat would present a monitoring framework at CCEXEC88 (July 2025) for review, and that comments on the revised version of the monitoring framework would then be sought from Members and Observers through a circular letter with the aim of submitting a final version to CAC48 for approval.

### Monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts<sup>9</sup>

10. CAC47 recalled the work ongoing on building a mechanism to monitor the use and impact of Codex texts, including an annual survey, case studies and collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and thanked Members for their participation in the 2024 Codex survey.

<sup>4</sup> REP24/EXEC1, para 61; REP24/CAC, para 238(ii)

<sup>5</sup> REP24/CAC para 238

<sup>6</sup> REP24/EXEC2, para 82

<sup>7</sup> REP24/CAC, para 22(ii); <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/aee7614e-d630-4665-a98c-74adcc4d3040>

<sup>8</sup> REP24/CAC, para 216

<sup>9</sup> REP24/CAC, para 209

11. *The report of the Codex survey 2023*<sup>10</sup> on the use and impact of Codex texts, and *the use and implementation of Codex, IPPC and WOAH standards*<sup>11</sup> have been published.

**Matters for action**

Nitrogen to protein conversion factors<sup>12</sup>

12. CAC47 returned the Annex to CXS 234-1999 on “Nitrogen to protein conversion factors” to CCMAS and requested CCMAS to:
- i. update Part 3 of Appendix II of REP24/MAS and ensure consistency of the nitrogen to protein conversion factors (Nx) with those in commodity standards;
  - ii. consider the request from the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) on the inclusion of the Nx for follow-up formula; and
  - iii. resubmit the Annex to CAC for adoption in the future.

**B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

**Matters for action or information**

Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP36, 2024)<sup>13</sup>

13. CCFFP36 (2024) informed CCMAS that:
- i. the intended use of the provision of amino acid nitrogen was to determine amino acid level during the fermentation process of fish sauce which caused its formation, in particular to give an approximation of the free amino acid content by measuring formaldehyde nitrogen and subtracting by ammoniacal nitrogen; and
  - ii. it agreed with the decision of CCMAS to replace the method AOAC 940.25 with AOAC 978.02 for total nitrogen determination.

Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL48, 2024)<sup>14</sup>

14. CCFL48 (2024) agreed to inform CCMAS of progress on the Guidelines on the use of precautionary allergen labelling and encourage CCMAS to provide advice on suitable methods of analysis before CCFL49 (2026).
15. CCFL48 agreed to keep the topic, sugar labelling – definition for ‘added sugars’, on the inventory of future work. The CCFL Chairperson, in addressing the concern about consultation with CCNFSDU, emphasized that CCNFSDU would be consulted, and their concurrence would be requested before proceeding with any further work on *Guidelines for use of nutrition and health claims* (CXG 23-1997); as would CCMAS on the issue of methods of analysis.

Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU44, 2024)<sup>15</sup>

16. CCNFSDU44 (2024) agreed to inform CCMAS that it was withdrawing its request to endorse methods of analysis for beta-carotene, fructans and lycopene and to only consider proposals for methods of analysis for which there are clear provisions in standards under the purview of the Committee.
17. CCNFSDU44 noted the Chairperson’s proposal in paragraph 164 of REP24/NFSDU regarding the availability of ISO 5495 and not to submit the method to CCMAS and agreed to discontinue consideration of the method of analysis for assessment of sweetness of carbohydrate sources.
18. CCNFSDU44 agreed to consider whether to retain the nitrogen to protein conversion factors in the *Standard for infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants* (CXS 72-1981) and the *Standard for follow-up formula for older infants and products for young children* (CXS 156-1987) at CCNFSDU45 (2026).

<sup>10</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/e57dc773-117b-4a37-aa70-2cdb8b3339c2>

<sup>11</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/d93faf09-2ecd-4ee5-89e7-d39412baaf7c>

<sup>12</sup> REP24/CAC, para 91

<sup>13</sup> REP24/FFP, para 19(ii)

<sup>14</sup> REP24/FL, para 92(ii), para 205 and 210

<sup>15</sup> REP24/NFSDU, para 152, para 168, para 185, and para 190 (ii), (iii)

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA25, 2025)<sup>16</sup>

19. CCAFRICA25 (2025) agreed to inform CCMAS that:
- i. both methods AOAC 935.47 and AOAC 939.09b for determination of chloride in dried meat (covered by CXS 350R-2022) should be included in CXS 234-1999 as Type III; and
  - ii. CCAFRICA will reconsider the matter related to development of sampling plans once the work in CCMAS has been completed.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP17, 2025)<sup>17</sup>

20. CCNASWP17 (2025) agreed to task the coordinator to work with Members in the North America and South West Pacific (NASWP) region to refine the draft standard operating procedure (SOP) on the qualitative assessment of kava varieties for nobility, based on a UV colorimetric testing method using kava acetic extract reading at 440 nm in fresh and dried kava products to support the *Regional standard for kava products for use as a beverage when mixed with water* (North America and the South West Pacific) (CXS 336R-2020) by 31 March 2025, so that the revised SOP could be forwarded to CCMAS44 for endorsement.
21. CCNASWP17 noted the ongoing efforts on additional methods for the identification and quantification of scopoletin in noni fruit juice, which would support data generation and submission to the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS)/Food database as an enabler to the planned safety evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA).

**C. RECOMMENDATIONS**

22. CCMAS44 is invited to:
- i. note the matters for information referred by CAC, CCEXEC (paras 1 – 11) and other subsidiary bodies (paras 13(ii), 14 – 15 and 16 – 20);
  - ii. encourage:
    - a. more Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups; and
    - b. Members and Observers to provide inputs to the monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026 – 2031;
  - iii. consider the update of Part 3 of Appendix II (REP24/MAS) (see para. 12) and note that matters for action arising from other subsidiary bodies and the replies from CCFFP (see para. 13(i)) and CCAFRICA (para. 19(i)) would be considered under Agenda Item 3 (Endorsement of methods of analysis and sampling).

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<sup>16</sup> REP25/AFRICA, para 13 (iii), (iv)

<sup>17</sup> REP25/NASWP, para 29 (iii), (iv)