

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-fourth Session

COMMENTS ON DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS SUBMITTED BY THE 14TH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS¹

BACKGROUND

This document compiles the comments on the draft standards submitted at Step 8 or Step 5/8 and the proposed draft standards submitted at Step 5 of the Procedure. The comments are those received through the Codex Online Commenting Systems (OCS), or via email by the time this document was issued. The comments are as shown in Appendix I.

OCS is an online tool that enables Codex Contact Points to submit comments on draft texts in a standardised way, thus providing more transparency and better management of comments on different Codex texts as requested through Circular Letters. Since its launching at CAC39 (2016), the OCS has been used for different Codex Committees.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON APPENDIX I

The comments received are presented in a table format, with two columns as follows:

First column – Presents the comments with the rationale.

Second column – Presents the provider of the comments (name of country or observer)

¹ This document compiles comments submitted through OCS, or via email by the time this document was issued, in reply to CL 2021/76-CF

Appendix I

Comments in regard to: (i) Maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (At Step 8); (ii) Maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (At Step 5/8); (iii) Revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods (CXC 56-2004) (At Step 5/8); (iv) Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans (At Step 5).

in reply to CL 2021/76-CF

Comments of: Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Ecuador, European Union, India, Kenya, Switzerland, United Kingdom

COMMENT	MEMBER / OBSERVER
<p>REVISION OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF LEAD CONTAMINATION IN FOODS</p> <p>Canada supports the adoption at Step 5/8 by CAC44 the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods.</p> <p>CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF CADMIUM CONTAMINATION IN COCOA BEANS (For adoption at Step 5)</p> <p>Canada supports the adoption of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium in Cocoa Beans at Step 5 by CAC44 and encourages the further elaboration of this text based on the comments provided at CCCF14.</p> <p>Canada supports the adoption at Step 8 by CAC44 the maximum level (ML) of 0.3 mg/kg in chocolate containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis. Establishing an ML is important for global trade harmonization. The concept of proportionality is supported by this ML value in relation to the MLs already established in the GSCTFF for two categories of chocolate with higher cocoa solid contents (≥50 to <70% and ≥70%) and its achievability rate presents a reasonable compromise for cocoa-producing regions worldwide. Canadian data demonstrate that chocolate products sold in Canada with <30% cocoa solids readily meet this ML.</p> <p>Canada supports the adoption at Step 8 by CAC44 the maximum level (ML) of 0.7 mg/kg in chocolate containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis. Establishing an ML is important for global trade harmonization. The concept of proportionality is supported by this ML value in relation to the MLs already established in the GSCTFF for two categories of chocolate with higher cocoa solid contents (≥50 to <70% and ≥70%) and its achievability rate presents a reasonable compromise for cocoa-producing regions worldwide. Canadian data demonstrate that chocolate products sold in Canada containing ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids readily meet this ML.</p> <p>REVISION OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF LEAD CONTAMINATION IN FOODS</p> <p>Canada supports the adoption at Step 5/8 by CAC44 the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods.</p> <p>CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF CADMIUM CONTAMINATION IN COCOA BEANS (For adoption at Step 5)</p> <p>Canada supports the adoption of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction</p>	<p>Canada</p>

<p>of Cadmium in Cocoa Beans at Step 5 by CAC44 and encourages the further elaboration of this text based on the comments provided at CCCF14.</p>	
<p>i) Niveles máximos (NM) de cadmio en chocolates que contienen o declaran <30% del total de sólidos de cacao sobre la base de materia seca (en el trámite 8) Los niveles relacionados se han estudiado durante varios años y por diferentes fuentes se determinó que este nivel es incluso más restrictivo de los niveles máximos que podrían afectar la salud humana, por lo cual no se puede relacionar algún tipo de impacto relevante en términos de inocuidad. Adicional de acuerdo a la posición de la CCLAC que apoyo este límite, Colombia como miembro y en base en lo indicado, no ve ningún inconveniente con acoger los límites aprobados en el marco del comité Codex y por tanto, consideramos que esta categoría, está lista para adopción.</p> <p>ii) NM de cadmio en chocolates que contienen o declaran entre ≥30% y <50% del total de sólidos de cacao sobre la base de materia seca (en el trámite 5/8) Los niveles relacionados se han estudiado durante varios años y por diferentes fuentes se determinó que este nivel es incluso más restrictivo de los niveles máximos que podrían afectar la salud humana, por lo cual no se puede relacionar algún tipo de impacto relevante en términos de inocuidad. Adicional de acuerdo a la posición de la CCLAC que apoyo este límite, Colombia como miembro y en base en lo indicado, no ve ningún inconveniente con acoger los límites aprobados en el marco del comité Codex y por tanto, consideramos que esta categoría, está lista para adopción.</p> <p>iii) Revisión del Código de prácticas para la prevención y reducción de la presencia de plomo en los alimentos (CXC 56-2004) (en el trámite 5/8) Colombia no presenta comentarios a este documento</p> <p>iv) Código de prácticas para prevenir y reducir la contaminación por cadmio en los granos del cacao (en el trámite 5) Colombia considera que se debe continuar debatiendo este documento en el marco CCLAC, por lo cual realizara aportes en el desarrollo del trámite y aprobación de este documento, con lo anterior, la posición país es que se debe dar continuidad al siguiente trámite para ajustar los temas referentes al código en relación con especificaciones regionales.</p>	<p>Colombia</p>
<p>Costa Rica would like to thank the Gte and CCCF for the work done. We would also like to confirm that the proposed MLs indicated in this document are ready for adoption.</p>	<p>Costa Rica</p>
<p>Cuba apoya los NM de cadmio en las diferentes categorías de chocolates, el Código de prácticas para la prevención y el Código de prácticas para prevenir y reducir la contaminación por cadmio en los granos del cacao, pero tiene su reserva en la reducción de la presencia de plomo, sobre todo en los zumos.</p>	<p>Cuba</p>
<p>Egypt agrees the adoption of MLs for cadmium in different categories of chocolates, and would like to recall reservation on Chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis as they enforced a lower MLs of 0.3 mg/kg as more protective for consumer especially children, as well as Chocolate containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis, as we enforced a lower MLs of 0.1 mg/kg for the same reasons.</p>	<p>Egypt</p>
<p>Ecuador agradece a la Secretaría del Codex por la oportunidad de presentar nuestros comentarios a la Carta Circular CL 2021/76/OCS-CF. Ecuador reafirma las conclusiones emitidas en la 14.ª REUNIÓN DEL COMITÉ DEL CODEX SOBRE CONTAMINANTES DE LOS ALIMENTOS, y apoya la aprobación de los NM de cadmio en las diferentes categorías de chocolates, el Código de prácticas para la prevención y reducción de la presencia de plomo en los alimentos y el Código de prácticas para prevenir y reducir la contaminación por cadmio en los granos del cacao. De igual manera se respalda lo mencionado por la Presidencia del Comité en cuanto a que todas las cuestiones técnicas se habían debatido a fondo y debe respetarse la decisión tomada en la CCCF14 y no deben reabrirse dichos debates en la CAC44.</p>	<p>Ecuador</p>

<p>Comments on a maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis at Step 8: The European Union (EU) would like to reiterate its reservation to the adoption of the proposed draft ML of 0.3 mg/kg for cadmium in chocolate containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis. The EU cannot support the proposed ML, as the EU argues for a stricter ML of 0.10 mg/kg to ensure a sufficient protection of all consumers, in particular children.</p> <p>Comments on the maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (At Step 5/8): The European Union (EU) would like to reiterate its reservation to the adoption of the proposed draft ML 0.7 mg/kg for chocolate and chocolate products containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis. The EU is of the opinion that a stricter ML of 0.30 mg/kg is needed to ensure a sufficient protection of all consumers, in particular children.</p>	European Union
<p>India supports the adoption of MLs for for cadmium in different categories of chocolates, the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods and the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans.</p>	India
<p>Kenya has no objection and therefore supports adoption of the two codes of practice at steps 8 and 5/8 by CAC44.</p>	Kenya
<p>Request for comments on a maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (At Step 8): Switzerland would like to express its reservation to the adoption of the proposed draft ML of 0.3 mg/kg for cadmium in chocolate containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis. To ensure a sufficient protection of children, a lower ML of 0.1 mg/kg would be appropriate.</p> <p>Request for comments on the maximum level for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (At Step 5/8): Switzerland would like to express its reservation to the adoption of the proposed draft ML of 0.7 mg/kg for chocolate and chocolate products containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis. To ensure a sufficient protection of children, a lower ML of 0.3 mg/kg would be appropriate.</p>	Switzerland
<p>1. Proposed Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods: The UK appreciates the Codex work on the proposed Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods and has no further comments in advance of adoption.</p> <p>2. Proposed Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans: The UK appreciates the Codex work on the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans. Recognising that CCCF identified the need for the electronic working group to further review the standard the UK is supportive of its adoption at step 5.</p> <p>3. Proposed MLs for cadmium in different categories of chocolates: The UK appreciates the Codex work on the proposed MLs for cadmium in different categories of chocolate and has no further comments in advance of adoption.</p>	United Kingdom