

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda item 4.8

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CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-fifth Session

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21-25 November and 12-13 December 2022

Comments of African Union (AU) on Zilpaterol Hydrochloride

Agenda Item 4.8
22/45/10)

Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CX/CAC

Draft position on MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle)

Position: African Union commends the Codex Chair and Vice Chair for engaging in the informal consultations with all parties with the aim of reaching consensus on the matter of MRL for zilpaterol hydrochloride. African Union supports a science-based and progressive approach to the resolution of the issue of zilpaterol and on the strength of JECFA evaluation, AU supports the final adoption of the MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride.

Rationale: African Union recalls the scientific evaluations conducted by JECFA at its 78th (2013), 81st (2015) and 85th (2017) meetings on the issue of MRL for zilpaterol and the outcome that there were no public health concerns regarding the proposed MRL. This position was further upheld by other risk assessment bodies that have also concluded that overall, the approach followed by JECFA to establish MRLs for Zilpaterol hydrochloride is scientifically sound. African Union notes that this veterinary drug is already being used in international trade. Given that there is ongoing international trade with several Codex members having already established their national MRLs for zilpaterol, there is need to harmonize this standard at the Codex level to ensure availability of an international reference for regulation at the national level. Without an international standard, each country would have to conduct its own scientific risk assessment to when adopting its measures on zilpaterol. This is highly problematic for developing countries, as this is a costly and time-consuming process and could lead to different national standards, causing even more unnecessary trade barriers. Therefore, having a Codex MRLs for zilpaterol is better than not having MRLs.